

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

"Sunday Times" Diary of the War

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By DIARIST



A CHERRY TREE BOOK

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FOREWORD

By the Editor of the "Sunday Times"



It is in response to the appeal of many readers that the Diary of the first six months of the war is here reprinted from the SUNDAY TIMES.

It is really a Diary, written each day; and, once written, it stands, and is never altered in the light of subsequent events. Except for making good one or two inadvertent omissions, it is presented in this volume exactly as it has appeared in the paper week by week.

It is not a history; except here and there to a very slight extent, it is not a commentary. Of necessity, it keeps close to events: the story of seven days can be told in one newspaper column only by severe compression. In that is its special value, alike for its original purpose and as the handy little reference book which I now introduce.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

September 3 BRITAIN DECLARED WAR AGAINST GERMANY
"ATHENIA" SUNK

" 4 R A T RAIDS ON BEL

, 8 GERMANS NEAR WARSAW

" 10 FRENCH TROOPS PENETRATE GERMAN
TERRITORY

, 11 FIRST MEETING OF SUPREME WAR COUNCIL

, 12 ARRIVAL OF BRITISH TROOPS IN FRANCE

17 RUSSIA INVADES POLAND

, 18 LOSS OF H M S ' COURAGEOUS ' ANNOUNCED

27 WARSAW SURRENDERS

, 29 GERMANY AND RUSSIA SIGN AGREEMENT
DIVIDING POLAND

October 1 ROYAL PROCLAMATION EXTENDS CALLING
UP AGE TO TWENTY TWO

14 H M S " ROYAL OAK " SUNK

16 GERMAN PLANES ATTACK WARSHIPS IN THE
FIRTH OF FORTH

, 19 ANGLO-TURKISH TREATY SIGNED

" 30 BRITISH ARMY ON WESTERN FRONT HAS ITS
FIRST AIR RAID

November 1 ALARM IN HOLLAND AT GERMAN THREATS
FINNISH DELEGATES IN MOSCOW FOR THIRD
TIME TO DISCUSS RUSSIAN PROPOSALS

" 2 UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTA
TIVES VOTES FOR REPEAL OF THE
ARMS EMBARGO

OUTSTANDING EVENTS—*Continued*

- November* 7 KING LEOPOLD CONSULTS WITH QUEEN
WILHELMINA
- 8 BOMB EXPLOSION IN MUNICH BEER HALL
SHORTLY AFTER HEPR HITLER'S SPEECH
THERE
- 13 FIRST ENEMY BOMBS ON BRITISH SOIL
- 15 HITLER REJECTS BELGO DUTCH OFFER OF
MEDICATION
- 17 ALLIED SUPREME WAR COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
FURTHER CO-ORDINATION OF ECONOMIC
EFFORT
- 19 GERMANS LAY MINES IN SHIPPING FAIRWAYS
EAST OF BRITISH COAST
- 21 BRITAIN ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO SEIZE
GERMAN EXPORTS
- 23 GERMANS SOW MINES FROM THE AIR
- 26 RAWALPINDI SUNT
- 28 THE KING OPENS PARLIAMENT
- 29 RUSSIA BREAKS OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH FINLAND
- 30 RUSSIAN FORCES INVADE FINLAND
- December* 3 RAF ATTACK ON HELIGOLAND
- 6 MR CHURCHILL ANNOUNCES THAT FROM
TWO TO FOUR U BOATS ARE SUNK
A WEEK

OUTSTANDING EVENTS—*Continued*

December 10 THE KING RETURNS FROM A VISIT TO FRANCE

" 12 LEAGUE OF NATIONS OFFER TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN RUSSIA AND FINLAND
REFUSED BY RUSSIA

" 13 P A F. SECURITY PATROL BEGUN OVER
HELLIGOLAND BIGHT

" 14 "GRAF SPEE" BATTLESHIP BEATEN IN
ACTION BY BRITISH CRUISERS

" 17 "GRAF SPEE" SCUTTLED

" 18 SUBMARINE "URSULA" PENETRATES ELBE
ESTUARY AND TORPEDOES ENEMY
CRUISER

ARRIVAL OF FIRST DIVISION OF CANADIAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ANNOUNCED

" 21 RUSSIANS CHECKED BY FINNS

" 25 THE KING BROADCASTS TO THE EMPIRE

" 26 FIRST CONTINGENT OF AUSTRALIAN AIR
FORCE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND

" 31 IMPORTANT FINNISH VICTORY

January 1 MILITARY AGE LIMIT EXTENDED TO TWENTY-
EIGHT

" 7 GERMAN PRESS ATTACKS ON SCANDINAVIA

" 8 THE FINNS DESTROY THE RUSSIAN 44TH
DIVISION

OUTSTANDING EVENTS—*Continued*

January 9 AIR MARSHAL A S BARRATT APPOINTED
COMMANDER OF THE R A F IN FRANCE

" 13 R A F FLY OVER VIENNA AND PRAGUE

" 14 ARMY LEAVE CANCELLED IN HOLLAND AND
BELGIUM

" 16 ADMIRALTY ANNOUNCE LOSS OF THREE
BRITISH SUBMARINES

" 22 TOKIO PROTESTS AGAINST BRITISH
CRUISER'S REMOVAL OF GERMAN SEA
MEN FROM JAPANESE LIVER

" 26 LISTENING TO FOREIGN BROADCASTS IN
GERMANY MAY BE PUNISHED BY DEATH

" 29 GERMAN AIRCRAFT ATTACK BRITISH AND
NEUTRAL SHIPPING IN NORTH SEA

" 31 PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES THAT
1 250 000 MEN ARE UNDER ARMS IN
THE ARMY

February 2 BALKAN ENTENTE CONFERENCE OPENS IN
BELGRADE

" 6 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE WITH JAPAN
ABOUT REMOVAL OF GERMANS FROM
JAPANESE LIVER

" 7 RUSSIANS MASS LARGER FORCES IN ATTACK
ON MAINERHEIM LINE

" 9 BRITISH SUCCESSES AGAINST U BOATS

OUTSTANDING EVENTS—*Continued*

- February* 12 AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES
ARRIVE AT SUEZ
- " 13 EFFICIENCY OF BRITISH CONVOY SYSTEM
- " 16 SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REJECTS FINNISH
APPEAL FOR MILITARY AID
- " 17 RESCUE OF BRITISH SEAMEN FROM GERMAN
SHIP "ALTMARK"
- " 19 RUSSIAN DIVISION DESTROYED BY FINNS
- " 20 NEUTRAL SHIPS JOIN BRITISH CONVOYS
- " 21 ARMING OF BRITISH FISHING TRAWLERS IN
NORTH SEA
BRITISH AEROPLANES IN FINLAND
- " 25 SQUADRON OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR
FORCE REACHES ENGLAND
MR SUMNER WELLES, PRESIDENT ROOSE-
VELT'S ENVOY, ARRIVES IN ROME
- " 29 FOOD AND PETROL RATIONING IN FRANCE
- March* 1 GERMAN SHIPMENTS OF COAL TO ITALY TO
BE STOPPED BY BRITISH CONTROL
SHIPS
- " 2 MR SUMNER WELLES MEETS HERR HITLER
RUSSIANS CLOSE TO VIIPURI
R & F MACHINES OVER BERLIN FOUR TIMES
IN A WEEK



FIRST WEEK



FIRST WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

GREAT BRITAIN and France are at war with Germany. Following a midnight meeting of the Cabinet, the British Ambassador, at nine o'clock this morning gave the German Government two further hours in which to decide whether they would at once withdraw their troops from Poland. The undertaking was not given and at 11-15 the Prime Minister, broadcasting from Downing Street announced in a moving speech that we were at war.

France's final ultimatum was presented at 12.30 and expired at 5.0, when she also was at war.

Mr Chamberlain's closing words on the wireless will never be forgotten.

"Now may God bless you all. My. He defend the right. It is the evil things we shall be fighting against—brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression, and persecution—and against them I am certain that the right will prevail."

Later he met the House of Commons at the first Sunday meeting of Parliament for a very long time. Everyone was glad that the doubts and fears which troubled the House yesterday were swept away.

In a broadcast from Buckingham Palace this evening the King called upon his people to stand calm, firm and united. "... We can only do the right as we see the right and reverently commit the rest to God."

The reconstruction of the Government, which it was known would coincide with the outbreak,

FIRST WEEK

of war, was announced to-day. The changes are much as was expected, except that both the Oppositions—Labour and Liberal—remain outside the Government, though promising general support. Mr Churchill becomes First Lord of the Admiralty, the office he held in 1914, and Mr Anthony Eden is Dominions Secretary. There is one surprise. Lord Hankey is appointed Minister Without Portfolio. For many years he was Secretary to the Cabinet and of the Committee of Imperial Defence, and his knowledge of public affairs is unrivalled.

There is to be a War Cabinet of nine members—Mr Chamberlain, Sir John Simon, Lord Halifax, Lord Chatfield, Mr Churchill, Mr Hore-Belisha, Sir Kingsley Wood, Sir Samuel Hoare (now Lord Privy Seal), and Lord Hankey.

Lord Maugham retires and Sir Thomas Inskip is the new Lord Chancellor. Lord Stanhope, who makes way for Mr Churchill at the Admiralty, is now Lord President of the Council. Sir Samuel Hoare's successor at the Home Office is Sir John Anderson.

The most sensational war news to-day is of the sinking of the Donaldson liner "Athenia" 200 miles west of the Hebrides. She had 1,400 passengers, and all that is known of them is that many were saved.

Australia, the Commonwealth Prime Minister announces, is at war with Germany. New Zealand takes the same course. Japan remains neutral. Lord Gort is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Field Force.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

IT is known that of the 1400 passengers on the *Athenia* 311 were Americans. Mr Churchill told the House of Commons that she was torpedoed without warning. Most of the passengers and crew were saved.

A daring Royal Air Force raid is reported to night. Aeroplanes flew to Wilhelmshaven and Brunsbittel at the entrance of the Kiel Canal heavily bombed vessels of the German fleet and badly damaged two battleships. The weather was bad there was strong resistance and as was to be expected we suffered some casualties. It was a gallant exploit that recalls memories of Zeebrugge.

Late on Sunday night and in the early hours of this morning R.A.F. aircraft carried out extensive reconnaissance over Northern and Western Germany and dropped over 6000000 copies of a note to the German people. They were not engaged by enemy aircraft. Further to inform the Germans the Prime Minister broadcast to them this evening in their own language.

The Germans are pressing the Poles hard on the Silesian front. In the West operations are beginning. A French communiqué says. Contacts have been progressively made east of the Maginot Line and close to the German frontier. Thousands of Australians are enlisting.

Many more Ministerial appointments are announced. In nearly all the Ministers remain in the offices they held before the reconstruction. An exception is that of Lord Macmillan who becomes the Minister of Information. It is

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officially stated that though he is not a member of the War Cabinet, Mr. Eden will attend all meetings of the Cabinet, so that he may be able to keep the Dominions fully informed.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

THE Poles are retreating, but, they say, "according to plan." They aim at getting behind the Vistula and the Bug, which are described as the country's natural defences. German reports claim the occupation of all the eastern part of the industrial districts in Upper Silesia. Polish aeroplanes have raided Berlin.

In the war at sea there are losses on both sides. Three German ships which might have become armed raiders have been sunk in the Atlantic after the crews had been saved. The Cunard freight steamer "Bosnia" (2,400 tons) was set on fire by submarine gunfire and sunk, also in the Atlantic; a fireman was killed, but the rest of the crew were rescued by a Norwegian tanker. The "Bosnia," like the "Athenia," began her voyage before this country was at war.

General Hertzog, the South African Prime Minister, who wanted the Union to remain neutral, has resigned after defeat in the House of Assembly and General Smuts has succeeded him. South Africa will now join in the war against Germany. In Canada, men are enlisting

FIRST WEEK

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

(Continued)

in large numbers since the outbreak of war the army which then numbered 55 000 has nearly doubled

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

THE war on the Western front is developing. A French communiqué reports many local advances. The French people are greatly impressed by British strength in the air. The third R.A.F. reconnaissance over Germany is announced. Our aeroplanes were not only spying out the land but again dropping vast numbers of the. Note to the German people. All our machines returned safely and were not engaged by enemy fighters.

German aircraft approached the East Coast early yesterday morning but our fighting machines were ready for them and they flew back without having even the opportunity to do any damage.

The enemy claim to have captured Cracow but the Poles deny it though the ancient city has been evacuated. North west of Warsaw there is heavy fighting and it is reported that the Government is now established in Lublin. The destruction of many German aeroplanes is reported.

Besides the credits recently granted to Poland the British and French Governments are giving her a cash loan of £8 500 000.

FIRST WEEK

The Germans are evidently ashamed of the unwarmed torpedoing of the "Athenia." Responsibility for it is denied and the "Hamburg'r Fremdenblatt" tells its readers that the order to sink the vessel was given by Mr. Churchill! The destruction of the ship has caused intense indignation in America, where opinion is rapidly shaping for repeal of the Neutrality Act and removal of the arms embargo. Adoption of the "cash and carry" policy appears to be likely.

Mr. Smuts has formed his Cabinet and South Africa is now at war with Germany. General Hertzog seems to be taking a conciliatory line: he is urging his followers not to raise the racial issue.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

TO DAY brings war news from the West as well as from the East. While the Poles are fighting bravely against heavy odds the French are giving the Germans a rough taste of their quality. Advancing beyond the Maginot Line they have already crossed the German frontier at various points. Land and air forces are co-operating and the French official report says the enemy has received large reinforcements between the Rhine and the Moselle. Their danger in the West, it is said, is already drawing forces from Poland.

British attacks on enemy submarines are continuing and German merchant ships are

FIRST WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

(Continued)

rapidly being driven off the sea. It is reported that fifty-four of them are in the harbour of Vigo and nine more in Japanese ports. The Norddeutscher trading ship "Inn" was captured on Tuesday and the crew and thirty-five passengers taken off. The crew had brought the ship to a sinking condition before she could be boarded. A British trader, "Olive Grove," of 4 060 tons has been torpedoed and sunk 200 miles north west of the Spanish coast. The crew of thirty-five were rescued.

There appears to be little doubt that Cracow has fallen and that the enemy continues his advance towards Warsaw. But the retreat of the Poles is well ordered: there has been no big battle and the Germans do not claim a large number of prisoners. The Poles may still be able to counter-attack with effect.

In the House of Commons, Mr Chamberlain gave a comprehensive review of the position to-day. He paid high tribute to the valour of the R.A.F. men—including some from the Dominions—who raided Wilhelmshaven and declared that the Navy will increasingly bring the problem of the submarine under control.

Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador to Berlin, arrived at Gravesend to-day on board the Dutch ship "Batavier V." There appear to have been submarine alarms during the passage, for the escorting destroyers twice dropped depth charges in mud Channel.

FIRST WEEK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

THE Germans are dangerously near to Warsaw, indeed their Army Command reports that motorised troops forced their way into the city at 5.15 this afternoon. If they did they were forced out again for later Polish reports show that the city services (including four radio stations) still function that scores of thousands of the citizens are engaged on defence works and that General Czuma commands a strong garrison.

We have occupied positions from which there is no retreat says General Czuma.

We shall fight to the last ditch. North and south west of the city the Polish forces are retreating with great skill and the armies are still intact.

The French retain the initiative on the West and further local advances are reported.

Enemy submarines are still busy but there is confidence that early adoption of the convoy system will reduce their power of mischief to a minimum.

The Ministry of Information in a statement issued to night says it is clear that the U-boats were on their stations on the ocean trade routes with orders for an unrestricted campaign against merchant shipping several days before war broke out.

The Duke of Kent having accepted a naval command for the duration of the war will not go to Australia and the King has approved of Lord Gowrie continuing in office as Governor General.

FIRST WEEK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

On the last day of the first week of the war one may fittingly pay tribute to the steadiness of our people and to the amazing strength of the A R P organisation. Men and women from all classes of the community are working together in a splendid spirit of comradeship ready for any call day or night. London has never been so thoroughly organised and inspired before and the willing and cheerful patriotic service here is being shown in every town and village in the land.



SECOND WEEK



SECOND WEEK

meeting of the Supreme War Council as evidence of the complete accord of Britain and France.

Special points in the speech were the Prime Minister's confidence that the convoy system (being applied immediately) would reduce the submarine danger to a minimum; that some relaxation of lighting restrictions is practicable; and a plea for patience while the Ministry of Information is putting its house in order.

From the "Fuehrer's Headquarters in Poland" comes a threat to bomb "open towns, markets, and villages." The excuse for this is that the Poles in such places are said to have resisted the German troops. Lord Halifax promptly replied to this by saying in the House of Lords this evening that if the Germans did bomb such places, contrary to Hitler's own pledge, our Government would hold themselves completely free "to take such action as they may deem appropriate." This statement was loudly cheered.

The new French War Cabinet is announced. M. Daladier is Foreign Minister and War Minister as well as Premier. M. Bonnet leaves the Foreign Office to be Minister of Justice.

President Roosevelt has summoned a special session of the United States Congress on September 21. The Government will ask for revision of the neutrality law so as to remove the existing arms embargo.

The law of contraband is already being enforced. A Dutch steamship with a cargo for Dusseldorf, in Germany, was stopped in the Downs, sent into port, and the cargo is being

SECOND WEEK

opened throughout England, Wales, and Scotland. In London, within a radius of a mile and a half from Leicester Square, they must close at 6 p m, but outside that area they may be open till ten. There will be no race meetings before October 16 at the earliest.

Stunning eye-witness accounts of the air-raids on the Kiel Canal are issued by the Ministry of Information.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

THE courage and skill with which the Poles are fighting is shown by the achievement of the army of Pomorze which, unable to remain in the indefensible Corridor, broke the enemy line and fought its way to Warsaw, where it arrived with 1,000 German prisoners. But the enemy's mechanised forces are again active, German bombing of open towns is reported.

Mr Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, has formed a War Cabinet of which that veteran of the Great War, Mr W M Hughes, is a member. Immediate enlistment of an infantry division for service at home or abroad is officially announced.

The Admiralty reports many attacks on German submarines, some of which have been destroyed.

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THIRD WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

WHILE still fighting gallantly against overwhelming odds Poland has received a mortal stab in the back. Early this morning Russian troops crossed the frontier in the north south and centre and rapid progress is reported from Moscow to night. The Polish Government is near the Rumanian frontier.

What this move of the Russians means is not yet made clear. They say that the Polish State has ceased to exist and that their object is to restore peace and order and to protect the Russians in Poland. Another view is that they are staking out their claim to a share of the plunder while yet there is time. They declare that they are still neutral in the European war. The fighting between Soviet forces and the Japanese on the Mongolian frontier has ended and an armistice has been signed.

East of the Maginot Line the French heavy guns are proving their superiority. German infantry counter attacks are uniformly beaten back. Large reinforcements from Poland are reported.

Friday September 29 is to be National Registration Day in other words a census will then be taken which will be the basis of the National Register, of food rationing and other emergency measures. Every British subject will be given an identity card.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

RUSSIAN and German troops have met at Brest Litovsk. It is suggested that after the two invaders have agreed on the areas they will annex a puppet Polish State may be set up.

Warsaw is still holding out. Many commentators point out that the swift collapse of the Poles is no reflection on their courage. German superiority was in their mechanised forces and in the air, not in the quality of their soldiers.

THIRD WEEK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

(Continued)

(Minister of Armaments in the French Cabinet)

In a broadcast address to night Sir Samuel Hoare said to those who had lost their jobs, owing to war made industrial dislocation "Be patient if you have sought war work and have not yet found it. The war work will soon be seeking you."

Major General the Duke of Gloucester is Chief Liaison Officer of the British Expeditionary Force in France.

The Russians have had the better of the deal with the Germans about Poland. At least half the country will come under the Soviet Government which will occupy the whole length of the Polish frontiers with Rumania and Ruthenia. The cities going to Russia include Vilna, Bialystok, Brest Litovsk, Lublin and Lwow (Lemberg), and the frontier will run close to Warsaw.

General Argesanu who commands the second army corps stationed in Bucharest is the new Prime Minister of Rumania. The country is reported to be quiet.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

WARSAW fights on and even the German High Command speaks of a desperately resisting enemy. Food supplies in the city are running short but there is no sign of weakening in the defence. The German casualties include one of their most famous soldiers—General Baron von Fritsch former Commander in Chief of the Army—who was killed in the Warsaw fighting yesterday.

The Germans have been counter-attacking strongly on the Western Front but with no success.

FOURTH WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

WARSAW is not only bombed from the air; to-day batteries of heavy guns have kept up without ceasing a terrible fire on the centre of the city. The killed on this one day are reported to be at least a thousand. Worst of all is that wounded men in hospitals have been done to death in their beds by the awful bombardment and buried in the debris.

Scandinavia is outraged by the latest development of the German submarine campaign. Neutral ships bound for the United Kingdom are now being destroyed. Two Finnish steamers carrying cellulose were sunk yesterday, and a Swedish vessel with a cargo of timber to-day.

A stirring story was told when the United States ship "American Farmer" arrived in New York to-day with twenty nine survivors of the crew of the British steamer "Kafiristan," sunk by a U boat. Passengers and the master of the "American Farmer" said that while the survivors were still in their boats a British aeroplane swooped down on the submarine, sprayed her deck with machine gun fire, and dropped bombs, one of which fell on the conning tower.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

THE Warsaw horror continues. A hundred fires are reported (the result of incendiary bombs) and the casualties are appalling. Yet the writer of to-day's communiqué from the shambles tells us in conventional phrase that "the morale of the Army and the population is excellent." And the same dreadful struggle is maintained in the neighbouring fortress of Modlin.

FOURTH WEEK

The Zeppelin works at Friedrichshaven, near the Swiss border, were three times attacked by Allied bombers last night. Yesterday also the Royal Air Force made reconnaissance flights over Western and North-Western Germany. All our aircraft returned safely, they had met no serious opposition.

"A foul act of piracy on the high seas on the part of the German Navy" is the Ministry of Information's judgment on the sinking of the British steamship 'Royal Sceptre' on September 6. "The crew of this ship were cast adrift in their boats without possible hope of reaching land", and this was a gross violation of the Submarine Protocol signed by Germany less than three years ago. By the rule then laid down no warship is justified in sinking a merchant ship unless the crew has been placed in safety.

The United States Neutrality Law Bill submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to-day, would make it illegal for American vessels to carry goods or passengers to belligerent countries, but it would permit belligerent Powers to buy goods (including munitions of war) from the United States if they paid cash for them and carried them away in their own ships.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

THERE were heartening reviews of the war situation in the House of Commons to-day: an informing survey of the home front by the Prime Minister, and a cheerful though cautious report on the war at sea by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Listening to Mr. Churchill, one had complete confidence that the Navy has given, and will

FOURTH WEEK

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

(Continued)

give a good account of itself. One tenth of Germany's submarines were destroyed in the first two weeks of war, by now the enemy's losses are probably a quarter and perhaps a third.

Other illuminating figures followed. The loss of merchant shipping by U boat action is declining. It was 65 000 tons in the first week, 46 000 tons in the second, 21 000 in the third and 9 000 in the last six days.

This is the twenty first day of Warsaw's heroic defence and the end must be near. The enemy's iron ring is drawn closer, the merciless bombardment continues day and night and though there is still food in the city, its distribution has become almost impossible.

In the West artillery action has been extended southward along the whole front. French guns are pounding the forward defences of the Siegfried Line. There are reports of food shortage in enemy country west of the Rhine.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

HUMAN nature could endure no longer and Warsaw capitulated to-day. Before the end of the week the enemy will be in full occupation of the ruined city.

German reports that their aeroplanes had destroyed a British aircraft-carrier and damaged a battleship were denied by Mr Churchill in the House of Commons. A wireless report had just been received from Sir Charles Forbes, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, who said twenty aircraft attacked but no British ship was hit and there were no British casualties. One of the enemy planes was shot

FOURTH WEEK

down and another badly damaged, and Mr Churchill said a third came down and her crew were taken prisoners

At home the event of the week is the first War Budget "opened" in the House of Commons by Sir John Simon this afternoon. It imposes new taxation on an unprecedented scale—the new income tax of 7s 6d in the pound (an average of 7s in this financial year) is 1s 6d in the pound above the highest point reached in the Great War.

Surtax and death duties are also increased: an excess profits duty of 60 per cent—or the National Defence contribution whichever is higher—is to be levied on trade and business profits above the pre-war standard, and there is additional taxation on spirits, wine, beer, sugar and tobacco. Later there will be war loans.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TALKS between Ribbentrop and Stalin begun at Moscow yesterday were continued to-day and everybody wonders what mischief they are plotting. Reuter reports that a pact of mutual assistance between Russia and Estonia has been signed.

The Admiralty again exposes the false statements broadcast from Germany that British men-of-war in the North Sea had been damaged by German aircraft. It is officially declared that no British ship has been damaged nor any casualties incurred from German aircraft.

The Foreign Relations Committee decided to-day to submit the Neutrality Bill to the American Senate.

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FOURTH WEEK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

THE representatives of Russia and Germany, who till recently loathed one another this morning signed a treaty by which they divide Poland between themselves, there is to be no form of Polish State. Having thus got what they wanted they declare that the Franco-British war with Germany ought to be ended at once.

The peace offensive is thus begun. If it fails we are told that will be proof that "Britain and France are responsible for the continuation of the war." As to Poland they say they will refuse any interference with the settlement by third parties.

In London official circles it is being said that the Moscow treaty was expected and that it does not essentially change the situation.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

THE Anglo-Turkish agreement has been initialled and will be signed as soon as the Foreign Minister M. Sarajoglu returns to Angora from Moscow. A Turkish treaty with France has also been agreed. And a Turkish Military Mission is on the way to London.

One main object of the treaties it is said is to maintain the *status quo* in the Balkans.

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FIFTH WEEK  
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FIFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

IN all the churches throughout the country, to-day was observed as a Day of National Prayer. The King and Queen attended morning service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

In response to a call from the German Government, the Italian Foreign Secretary, Count Ciano, went to Berlin to-day and was received by Herr Hitler this evening. It is assumed from this that Italy is being asked to present Hitler's expected peace proposals to the British and French Governments.

As Mr. Churchill said in a broadcast address to-night, Hitler decided when the war should begin, but it is not for him or his successors to say when it will end. It began when he wanted it, and it will end only when we are convinced that he has had enough.

A thrilling air fight over the Siegfried Line is reported by the Air Ministry. Five British reconnaissance machines were attacked by fifteen German Messerschmitt fighters in the most strongly defended part of the Saar. Three of our machines were shot down (of the twelve men who formed the crews eight escaped by parachute) and another made a forced landing. The British squadron leader, who alone was left, then shot down two of the enemy machines—and the other thirteen turned tail and fled. Our surviving plane, with eighty holes in its fabric, caught fire as it fell, but the crew were saved.

It is announced by Royal Proclamation to-night that men between the ages of twenty and twenty-two are liable to military service. The calling up date will be announced later.



FIFTH WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

HAVING been in Berlin less than twenty-four hours Count Ciano is on his way to Rome. Meantime, there is intense diplomatic activity in Moscow. Following the agreement with Estonia, negotiations are now going on with Latvia; Lithuania's turn will probably come next.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarıyoglu is still in Moscow. It is believed that Stalin is pressing him to free Turkey from, at any rate, part of her obligations to Britain and France.

The British steamer "Clement" (of the Booth Line) has been sunk in the South Atlantic by an enemy ship whose identity is unknown.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

A CROWDED House of Commons cheered the Prime Minister's comments on the reports of imminent peace proposals from Germany. The attack on Poland he said, was the occasion of war by Britain and France, but the fundamental cause was the need that had arisen to end the rule of violence in Europe. That was the purpose of the Allies, and no threat would induce them to abandon it. If peace proposals were made they would be considered, but no mere promises from the present German Government could be accepted for that Government had too often proved that their undertakings were worthless when it suited them that they should be broken.

Mr. Chamberlain announced changes in the Ministry of Information. The chief is that the pre-war practice by which journalists had direct contact with Government departments

FIFTH WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

(Continued)

will be restored Sir Walter Monckton is appointed Controller of Censorship, but how he will fit into the present organisation is not yet explained

In a speech yesterday the former President of the United States, Mr Hoover, declared that he could see no possibility of the Allies being defeated Economically, Germany was at a tremendous disadvantage

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

REPORTS that Signor Mussolini was making—or had already made—proposals of peace were quickly contradicted from Rome to-day Nor is there any sign that the Italian Government intends to abandon neutrality

Russia also, it is generally thought, will remain neutral in the war in the West There is a curious report that she has asked for Norwegian ships to carry Russian timber to British ports

The Dominion Governments are each sending a Minister to London to confer with the British Government with a view to ensuring the most effective co-ordination of effort in the war

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

THERE is no limit to the mendacity of German propaganda After the sinking of the "Athenia," it was said that Mr Churchill had ordered her to be destroyed! And last night the United States Government received a warning from the head of the German Navy (Admiral Raeder) that the "Iroquois," an

FIFTH WEEK

American steamer carrying American passengers, would be sunk in the same way. Of course, nobody in Washington believed it.

When the war began the Germans had ten or twelve 750-ton ocean going submarines. It is believed that about half of these have already been lost. No British ship had been sunk this week until to-day, when one of 876 tons was a victim.

* "Naval Eye Witness" describes the marvellous escape of a British submarine which was badly damaged by depth charges in enemy waters. Her periscope was blown away, the wireless smashed, the engines disabled, and she could not dive after coming to the surface but by the splendid courage and resource of officers and men she managed to limp across the North Sea until she came under escort of destroyers.

Following the settlements with Estonia and Latvia Russia has now proposed a trade agreement with Lithuania which is likely to be accepted.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

AT a special session of the Reichstag to-day Herr Hitler gloated over the conquest of Poland and then proposed that a conference should be held to consider a comprehensive European settlement. It would not be an immediate conference first the war must be ended and armies demobilised. Hitler thus demands that we should disarm before anything is settled. Except Poland Germany would not tolerate the restoration of Polish independence.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

(Continued)

A week ago it was announced that peace proposals would be made jointly by Germany and Russia. There was no pretence in Hitler's speech that Russia shared responsibility for his mixture of appeal and threats to Britain and France. For the time, at any rate, Russia is trying to live up to her profession of neutrality in the Western war.

The Admiralty makes this caustic comment on the German "warning" that the "Iroquois" would be sunk: "It is surprising that an officer of the former Imperial German Navy like Admiral Raeder should demean his uniform by lending himself to such baseness."

Germany, it is reported from Copenhagen, intends to "intensify" submarine warfare.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

THE consensus of world opinion on Hitler's speech is that it does not provide a basis for negotiation. "A peace of conquest" is one American description of it. But Berlin pathetically clings to the hope that Italy will lead a peace campaign.

On the Western Front the French have made a very useful gain of territory on the German side of Luxembourg. The whole of the British Expeditionary Force, much stronger than that which crossed the Channel in 1914, is now in France. Men and material were transported from one country to the other without loss of a single life.

Germany's aircraft are active in the North Sea but her navy keeps in the safety of harbour. Meantime British merchant ships are arriving in home ports in convoy; and it is reported that no convoyed ship has yet been lost.

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SIXTH WEEK  
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SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

WORLD opinion on Hitler's "peace proposals" is almost entirely unfavourable. Our Government is conferring with the Governments of the Dominions and of France before the Prime Minister makes a statement to Parliament on the subject.

Having secured agreements with Estonia and Latvia, and submitted one to Lithuania, the Russian Government has invited Finland to send a special representative to Moscow to negotiate on political and economic questions. The invitation has been accepted, but the Finns declare that they are determined to maintain their independence—and their neutrality in the war.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

THE Admiralty report attacks by German aircraft on British cruisers and destroyers. None of our ships was damaged. Yesterday afternoon a German naval squadron was seen by our patrol craft to the south west of Norway, and British forces tried to engage it, but the enemy ships got away in the darkness.

Now that the small States north-east of the Baltic have come under strong Russian influence Hitler is transferring Germans there to the Reich and is in such a hurry about it that he sent Latvia a message saying that the process must be completed in three days. It is estimated that there are in Latvia about 60 000 people of German race, including 4 000 German subjects. These are ordered to leave, but the Latvian Government have told the others that they can go or stay as they wish. Many of them belong to families which have been settled in the country for centuries and they are loth to leave it.

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SIXTH WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

THE French are first in their reply to Hitler. In a broadcast statement, M. Daladier said they would fight on to secure a guarantee of security for Europe.

In a heartening review of the work of the Royal Air Force in the House of Commons, Sir Kingsley Wood declared that our latest fighters are definitely better than their German counterparts. The present great production of aeroplanes is to be doubled.

Another Swedish steamer was sunk by a German submarine on Sunday.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

THE Turkish Foreign Minister has been in Moscow for sixteen days, and the negotiations are still incomplete. Stalin has been busy with other things, most of all with the establishment of the new order in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The agreement with Lithuania provides that the State receives the province and town of Vilna (long the cause of quarrel with Poland)—and also Russian garrisons in certain leased areas. The Soviet soldiers, it is laid down are to stand aloof from the internal affairs of Lithuania; but whether this undertaking can and will be made effective, time only will show.

Meantime, Finland's delegate, Dr. Paasikivi, has arrived in Moscow. Will Stalin treat her as he has treated the other three States?

The Polish Government has been re-established in Paris, and its Foreign Minister, M. Zaleski, has arrived in London for a short stay. He saw both the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister this afternoon.

Mr. Hore-Belisha told the House of Commons to-day that the British Expeditionary Force of

SIXTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

(Continued)

158,000 men crossed to France without any casualty. At the outbreak of war the Army had at disposal in this country alone, including Reservists and Militia, "the best part of a million men."

In the Expeditionary Force Lieut-General Sir John Dill commands the First Army Corps and Lieut-General A. T. Brooke the second

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

IN the House of Commons this afternoon Mr Chamberlain made his reply to Hitler's Reichstag speech, and it is what was expected.

The Fuehrer's proposals for "European security" were based on recognition of his conquests and his right to do what he pleased with the conquered—and Great Britain, said the Prime Minister, cannot accept such a basis without forfeiting her honour. Apart from that there is a fundamental difficulty in dealing with Hitler's wider proposals—"after our past experience, it is no longer possible to rely upon the unsupported word of the present German Government."

Mr. Chamberlain quoted with approval M. Daladier's words on Tuesday, that we are fighting against aggression and for a security which cannot be called in question every six months. "Acts—not words alone—must be forthcoming," our Prime Minister declared, "before we and our Allies can cease to wage war to the utmost of our strength." And then, in his concluding sentence—"It is for Germany to make her choice."

First reports of the impression made by the speech abroad are from the United States, where it is warmly approved.

SIXTH WEEK

Fighting has become sharper on the Western front, the Germans making many infantry attacks with the object of taking French prisoners—an object in which they continue to be foiled

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

WHILE they do not report Mr. Chamberlain except in detached passages, the German newspapers rage against him with fury. Even a so-called official reply is merely abusive. His speech is described as "an unheard of insult to Germany" and as showing that "whatever we do or say or offer, British warmongers are determined to destroy the German people." "A high Nazi official" is reported as saying that nothing but neutral intervention can now restore peace. And there is no sign of that.

Everyone is asking "What next?" The Germans have been thinking in the terms of a quick war against inferior forces, now they are opposed by two great Powers—and no quick way is visible. They are supposed to have eighty divisions on the Western Front, a superiority in numbers but not such as to encourage confidence in an attack on the Maginot Line. In spite of all the pledges that they would not do it, many still believe they will attempt a rush through Belgium. But the Maginot Line would confront them even then!

To-day's German communique reports that the French have destroyed three bridges over the Rhine.

The Germans now admit that they lost six aeroplanes in the encounter of their aircraft with British naval forces in the North Sea last Monday.

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SIXTH WEEK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

THE Admiralty announces the sinking of the "Royal Oak," a British battleship built over twenty years ago. It is believed she was sunk by a submarine, but there is no definite information about that. Nor is the loss of life yet known.

The Russian demands on Finland are reported to be "relatively moderate", but the Finns are open-eyed to possible danger, and already half the population of Helsinki (Helsingfors) have left the city. The army is on guard along the Russian frontier.

Finland's President will attend a four Power Conference, called by King Gustav of Sweden and to be held in Stockholm on Wednesday next. King Haakon of Norway and King Christian of Denmark will also be there.



SEVENTH WEEK



SEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

REPORTS of enemy intentions are conflicting. German newspapers (which have given only garbled reports of the Prime Minister's reply to Hitler) are denouncing England's war guilt and encouraging their public to expect peace proposals from neutral Powers. But the news from the Western Front is of the rolling up of more enemy divisions towards the Siegfried Line and of the muster of great forces close to the Belgian border. Will they attack? The British Army is now on the line assigned to it, and working hard in strengthening the defences already organised.

An Admiralty report gives the number of survivors from the sunk battleship "Royal Oak" as 411; the ship's complement was about 1200.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

TWELVE or fourteen bombers this afternoon attacked warships in the Lirth of Forth. Superficial damage was done to the cruiser Southampton and the destroyer Mohawk, but they and all the other vessels lying there were completely seaworthy when the raid was over. But bombs had fallen so near that splinters caused thirty five casualties.

At least four of the enemy bombers were brought down, three of them by R A F machines. The strength of the defence against naval attack at sea was again manifest. But there was a strange and unaccountable lapse in one important respect. Edinburgh saw the raid, splinters and bomb-caps actually fell within the city, and it has a strong A R P organisation. Yet no siren sounded, no warden blew his whistle!

SEVENTH WEEK

The first German attack in force on the Western Front was begun this morning on a four mile front east of the Moselle and near to the south-east Luxembourg frontier. French forward posts were withdrawn, according to plan, and the enemy got as far as Apach, just within the French frontier, but were there held and driven back.

According to a War Office statement, some of the German prisoners recently taken by the French Army did not know there was a war till they were captured. They had come from quiet sectors of the line, where they were told they were on manœuvres, and they thought the firing they heard was target practice and blasting.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

FOLLOWING up yesterday morning's attack near the Luxembourg frontier, the Germans advanced again in the afternoon on an eighteen mile front east of the Saar and again they failed. The French withdrew their forward posts, and the enemy was held "on the pre-arranged line."

To-day there was a resumption of the air attacks on British naval forces. This time it was at Scapa Flow. Some damage was done to the "Iron Duke," an old battleship which was Admiral Jellicoe's flagship from 1914 to 1917. Two of the raiders were shot down—and two more were destroyed in a fight off the north-east coast. Another air attack over the Orkneys this afternoon caused no casualties or damage. Later reports suggest that besides the four enemy machines brought down in and near the Firth of Forth yesterday several others were so crippled that they could not get home.

SEVENTH WEEK

It is estimated that the Germans suffered 5 000 casualties in Monday's fighting on the Western Front

Our own casualties are heavy—at home In September, the first black-out month, 1,130 persons died from the effects of road accidents as compared with 554 in the corresponding month of last year.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

THE Anglo-French-Turkish Treaty was signed at Angora this evening, and within half an hour the fact was reported by the Prime Minister to the House of Commons It is understood that the terms are those that were agreed three weeks ago Completion of the treaty is an event of major importance and is sure to be hailed abroad as a great diplomatic success for the Allies

The solidarity of the Scandinavian States—Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland—is shown by the report on the conference of the four Powers held in Stockholm yesterday and the day before They affirm their determination, in close co-operation, to adhere consistently to a policy of neutrality

Heavy rains have caused floods on the German side of the Rhine sector of the Western Front The French have the advantage of being on higher ground

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

HITLER is credited with the intention to make new peace proposals—not this time to the British Government, but exclusively to France The idea that he can drive a wedge

SLEVENTH WEEK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

(Continued)

between the two countries has been in his mind for a considerable time, but has had no encouragement from our Ally. The suggestion that they are ready to make a separate peace will be resented by the French as an insult.

The negotiations between Russia and Finland will be resumed on Monday.

German aircraft attempted another raid on Scotland this morning, but retired in face of quick R.A.F. defensive action.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

THE Germans must decide quickly whether they are going to make a mass attack on the Maginot Line in the near future. Whether conditions have already deteriorated and may be expected to become worse as the winter nears. If there is no enemy attack within the next week or two, it will probably mean a long wait before there is any decisive clash.

A message from New York reports the sinking of the German armed raider which we heard was in the South Atlantic three weeks ago. It was the "Schwabensland," which, before the war, was a base ship in the Atlantic for German mail aeroplanes.

From New York also we heard of the arrival there of nearly three hundred survivors of the British ships, "City of Mandalay" and "Yorkshire." Survivors said that sixty-one persons are missing from the "Yorkshire" and six or seven from the "City of Mandalay." Captain Mackenzie, commander of the American ship "Independence Hall," said the captain of the U boat thanked him for rescuing the survivors.

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EIGHTH WEEK  
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EIGHTH WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

AT Danzig this evening von Ribbentrop made a speech that was surely meant for home consumption—nobody outside Germany will believe it. He put forward the preposterous case that Britain was for years plotting the war, and that Mr Chamberlain meant war even when he went to Munich!

Last night a merchant ship flying the German flag arrived in the Russian port of Murmansk. It was the American owned "City of Flint" which was bound from New York to Manchester when a "German cruiser" seized her and put a prize crew aboard. The news has caused excitement in America.

A week after the Polish war began the store of gold in the Bank of Poland was secretly sent from Warsaw. It was carried across Rumania to Constanza where it was put on board a Turkish ship which sailed at once for the Mediterranean and after an apparently aimless cruise on to Syria. There it was transferred to a French vessel. The seventy tons of gold worth about £15 000 000 is now in Paris held on trust for the future Government of an independent Poland.

On the Western Front there was to-day some sharp small scale fighting south-east of the forest of Warndt.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

THE blockade of Germany is tightening and Mr R. H. Cross the Minister of Economic Warfare says that nearly all her overseas sources of supply are now cut off. The Germans are retaliating of course. There are

EIGHTH WEEK

he has been saying for years that Britain would not fight.

Wintry conditions prevail on the Western Front, with much rain and some snow

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

SUSPENSION of telephonic communications from Germany alarmed some of her smaller neighbours yesterday; and in the Berlin papers to-day there were ominous attacks on Belgium. She was charged with unneutral conduct—and this was repeated on the German radio.

All who have had close dealings with the Belgian Government know that it has maintained the strictest neutrality, not only during this war, but for long before. But Belgium will defend herself if attacked. That is explicitly declared in a broadcast to America by King Leopold.

On Goodwin Sands last night Deal lifeboatmen found the broken wreck of an enemy submarine. If this is possible, it will be brought into harbour so that her construction and equipment may be thoroughly examined.

The United States Senate, by sixty-three votes to thirty, has passed the Neutrality Bill which repeals the embargo on the exportation of arms and authorises the "cash and carry" system of arms trade with belligerents.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

THERE was an enemy air reconnaissance over South East Scotland this morning. All the raiders were driven off except one,


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NINTH WEEK  
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NINTH WEEK

Aliens in South Africa whom the law does not permit to join the Regular Forces are enlisting in a Foreign Legion established by the Union Government.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

RUSSIA leads in the news. At a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union to-night M. Molotoff lectured Britain and France for continuing the war, but gave no more than moral support to Germany; indeed, he stressed the fact that the Soviet-German Agreement provides that Russia shall be neutral if Germany is at war.

There is interesting news also from Italy. Six Ministries and several Under-Secretaryships have changed hands, and Signor Starace is no longer Secretary of the Fascist Party. Count Ciano remains Foreign Minister, and his many friends in London will be interested to know that Signor Grandi still presides over the Department of Justice. Signor Mussolini believes in occasional "shuffling" of Government posts and these latest changes may not mean any shifting of foreign policy.

Of more value as a pointer, perhaps, is the Italian pact of friendship and non aggression with Greece, which is expected to be officially announced very soon.

Paris reports mention the first use of German heavy guns in the West since the war began. On both sides air reconnaissance machines have been enterprising. British fighters had their first engagement with enemy bombers over French soil yesterday, and one of the bombers was shot down.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

THE Dutch Government have proclaimed a state of siege in military inundation areas and in certain districts adjoining the German frontier. They evidently take a serious view of the near massing of German forces.

Second thoughts on M. Molotoff's speech are that if it has made little change in the situation Russia has done well out of her agreement with Germany and naturally shows a special friendliness to that Power but she maintains neutrality and will it is believed continue to trade with both sides.

Finnish delegates are again in Moscow—for the third time within three weeks. The Russian territorial demands include a naval base on the northern entrance to the Gulf of Finland. No objection is made to the fortification of the Åland Islands if done by Finland alone but it is joint fortification by Finland and Sweden that is proposed and the Finns must be reluctant to have that arrangement cancelled.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

THE outstanding feature of the Prime Minister's weekly review in the House of Commons was his tribute to the great war effort now developing in all parts of the Empire — I help, he said, eagerly offered and gladly accepted. Cabinet Ministers and other representatives of the Dominions are now in London to confer with our Government on the best means of co-ordinating action.

The Colonies also are giving loyal and enthusiastic co-operation. Plans for employing their man power most effectively are being worked out.

NINTH WEEK

By a larger majority than was expected—242 to 181—the House of Representatives in Washington has voted for repeal of the arms embargo. The Bill will be law in a few days, and the way will then be clear for British and French purchases of arms and munitions on the "cash and carry" basis.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

HOW Germany suffers from the blockade is shown by figures published to-day by the Ministry of Economic Warfare. In the first eight weeks of the war over 400,000 tons of contraband have been intercepted and detained by the British and 150,000 tons by the French. Of the British total 87,450 tons are petroleum products, including 12,000,000 gallons of petrol. Materials applicable to military use account for far the greater part of the tonnage.

Germany's losses due to the reluctance of overseas shippers to consign goods to that country are believed to be much in excess of the quantities intercepted.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

A MONTH ago the American steamer, "City of Flint," left New York for Liverpool. She was captured in the Atlantic by the Germans and, with a prize crew aboard, made Murmansk. From there she tried to reach Germany, hugging the Scandinavian coast to avoid British warships. On Friday she arrived at the Norwegian port of Haugesund, where she

NINTH WEEK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

(Continued)

anchored without permission and, as the Norwegian official report says, without sufficient reason. The prize crew was thereupon interned, the "City of Flint" set free (with her American crew) and, with good luck, she will soon be in a British port.

Having given way on two thirds of the Russian demands, the Finnish Government is standing firm on the rest. Delegates from Helsinki to Moscow are awaiting Stalin's decision.

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TENTH WEEK

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TENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

THE Norwegian Government have acted firmly and promptly in rejecting the German protest against the freeing of the American ship 'City of Flint' at Haugesund. Their action was strictly in record with the Hague Convention of 1907 (ratified by Germany) which provides that if a prize ship is taken to a neutral port for other than certain specified reasons which did not apply in this case it should be released. The 'City of Flint' is now at Bergen where she arrived on Saturday.

Angry comment on the Neutrality Act, signed by President Roosevelt yesterday, is made by the German Press. In the United States there are protests against the fixing of "danger zones" which either by statute or by proclamation American ships are now forbidden to enter. These include ports in the British Isles, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, the Baltic and Norway south of Bergen.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

RUSSIAN determination to remain neutral was again affirmed by M. Molotoff at a celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. It is significant that in a manifesto of the Communist International Germany is condemned as well as Britain and France.

Over the Western Front nine French aeroplanes attacked twenty-seven enemy machines and brought down nine of them without loss to themselves.

TENTH WEEK

Nineteen British ships with a total tonnage of 83 159 were sunk in October as against thirty-seven ships and 155 636 tons in September.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

LATE last night King Leopold arrived at The Hague and began conversations with Queen Wilhelmina, conversations which were continued this morning. Later, they sent to King George, the French President, and Herr Hitler proposals for peace and offered their good offices.

As defence preparations are being pressed forward both in Belgium and in Holland, it is suggested that this unexpected offer of mediation follows pressure from Germany on one or the other, or both.

By a very interesting coincidence, it happened that in the House of Lords this evening Lord Halifax re-stated British war aims. "There can be no opportunity for Europe to cultivate the arts of peace," he said, "until Germany is brought to realise that recurrent acts of aggression will not be tolerated."

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

LORD CHATFIELD in the House of Lords and Mr Churchill in the Commons this afternoon made a statement on the sinking of the 'Royal Oak' at Scapa Flow. This was in effect that neither physical obstructions at the entrance to the harbour, nor the patrolling craft outside were in the state of strength and efficiency they should have been. The Admiralty had learned the lesson that nothing must be taken for granted.

TENTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

(Continued)

Reviewing the progress of the war at sea Mr Churchill reported the destruction of the submarine "Oxley" by an accidental explosion which it was inadvisable to make public at the time. Four officers and forty nine ratings lost their lives.

The loss of mercantile tonnage at sea Mr Churchill said in the first two months of war was only one third of one per cent, and comparison of cargoes lost and enemy contraband seized showed over 100 000 tons in our favour. On a conservative estimate, between two and four German submarines are destroyed every week and perhaps two more added. A long and unrelenting struggle lies before us and continued losses may be expected but we can face the future with confidence. We are getting definite mastery of the U boat attack.

In an unexpected speech at Munich to night Herr Hitler furiously attacked Britain. Shortly after he left the beer hall where the meeting was held there was an explosion and several lives were lost.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

TO DAY'S report is that eight people were killed and sixty three injured in the Munich explosion. Nazi spokesmen put the blame for it on Britain and threaten an intensification of the war on this country.

Meantime there are further indications of intention to attack—or at any rate, preparation for attack—on Holland and Belgium. There was an ugly incident near Venlo to night.

TENTH WEEK

German Customs officials crossed the frontier and there was a shooting affray in which a Dutchman was killed. Several others were kidnapped and taken into German territory.

Gout prevented the Prime Minister from delivering his speech at the Mansion House to-day and it was read by Sir John Simon. It said that the Government are consulting the Dominions and our Allies about the reply to the peace appeal made by Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold. "In view of past experience" Mr Chamberlain is not very hopeful of a satisfactory response from the German Chancellor, but if a satisfactory settlement can be otherwise secured we do not want to continue the war a day longer than is necessary.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

HOLLAND remains the centre of anxiety. In German quarters designs on that country are disavowed and the Dutch officially discredit them but precautionary measures are being intensified. All Dutch army and police leave has been stopped river traffic is largely suspended, some districts are being evacuated (the ex Kaiser may have to leave Doorn) and to night lighthouses on the coast are extinguished to avoid giving guidance to hostile aircraft. Flooding may begin at the shortest notice.

The Admiralty report that a small fleet auxiliary—the 'Northern Rover'—has not returned from patrol and is given up as lost. Four officers and twenty three ratings are missing.

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TENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

TO-DAY, Armistice Day, had a peculiar significance. *For the first time since the last war, there was no official commemoration at the Cenotaph, but wreaths were laid there on behalf of the King and Queen and other members of the Royal family.*

Abroad, the French President, M. Lebrun, broadcast a message to the French people. In the war zone, the outstanding event is the continued massing of German troops on the Dutch frontier.



ELEVENTH WEEK



ELEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

THE British and French replies to the offer of mediation by Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold are published to-day. They are sympathetic but firm. King George restates the Allies' purpose to free Europe from "perpetually recurring fear of German aggression"—a fear which is nowhere more manifest than in Holland and Belgium. President Lebrun says redress of the injustices done to Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland and effective guarantees for the future are conditions of any durable peace.

This puts the onus on Germany—and Herr Hitler's reply has yet to come. Meantime, the menace to the Low Countries is thought to have eased.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

THE first enemy bombs on British soil in this war crashed on the Shetlands during two raids this morning. One empty house was damaged, some windows were broken, and deep craters were made on open land. Some bombs fell in the sea, but no ship was hit.

An Admiralty communiqué reports the sinking of two German steamers, one of 8 000 tons, the other of 6 000 tons. They were intercepted by British warships and were found to be sinking when the crews left them. After the crews had been rescued both ships were sunk to prevent them being a danger to navigation.

Sir Arthur Salter, M.P., who had great official experience of shipping problems in the last war, has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping.

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ELEVENTH WEEK

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

A BRITISH destroyer has been sunk by a German mine. The casualties include three officers injured, one rating dead, and thirteen injured.

On the Western Front great patrol activity during the past day or two is reported. German aircraft have been making reconnaissance raids behind the French lines in order, it is suggested, to report on railway traffic.

Two distinguished representatives of our Allies are now in London. M. Paul Reynaud, the French Finance Minister, is discussing financial and economic problems with Sir John Simon and other members of the Cabinet. General Sikorski, the new Polish Prime Minister, and M. Zaleski, the Foreign Minister, arrived by air from France to-day, and had a long talk with Lord Halifax during the afternoon.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

HITLER has curtly rejected the Belgian-Dutch offer of mediation. On his instructions von Ribbentrop has informed the Belgian Ambassador and the Dutch Minister in Berlin that "after the blunt rejection of the peace move by Britain and France, the German Government considered the matter closed."

That was not the view taken at Brussels and The Hague. They regarded the British and French replies as leaving the way open for some constructive proposal by the German Government. Hitler has nothing to say

ELEVENTH WEEK

"Leander" was one of the ships that put into Vigo when war broke out, and, owing to food difficulties, she was making a dash for home.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

MOST important to-day is the meeting of the Allied Supreme War Council, held this time in London. Mr. Chamberlain, M. Daladier, and other Ministers were present.

The co-ordination of economic effort decided on at the beginning of the war has now been so extended as to ensure common action by the two countries in these important fields: air, munitions and raw materials, oil, food, shipping, and economic warfare. Import programmes will be drawn up jointly, and there will be no competitive buying in foreign markets.

"By this means," says the official report of to-day's meeting, "arrangements have been carried into effect two months after the beginning of hostilities for the organisation of a common action by the two countries which was only achieved during the last conflict at the end of the third year of the war."

Air raid warnings were sounded to-day in thirteen towns of South Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales. An enemy aeroplane crossed the country for the first time and, when last seen was making for the Irish Sea. No bombs were dropped.

Evidence of Germany's internal troubles is the announcement in a Berlin communiqué that nine "intellectuals" have been shot at Prague, and the high schools and university there ordered to be closed for three years.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

A REPORT from Czechia Slovakia last night says Prague was like a city of the dead after the announcement of the nine executions. It is said that M. Emil Hacha, the first President of the Czech Protectorate is kept prisoner in his house near Prague in consequence of refusal to sign a German mobilisation decree.

The "New York Times" hails yesterday's decisions of the Supreme War Council as "a big victory on the economic battlefield."



TWELFTH WEEK



TWELFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

THE ordinary methods of enemy submarines having failed, they have now turned to mine laying on the route used by British and neutral merchants ships off the East Coast. First victim of this barbarous warfare was the Dutch liner "Simon Bolivar," sunk yesterday with a loss of life now estimated at about 140.

To-day, three more ships have been sunk in the same way—one British, one Swedish, and one Italian. The destruction of the Italian vessel with the loss of five lives, is an indication of the recklessness of this new campaign. It is said that the Germans are using "magnetic" mines which are too deep to be reached by mine-sweepers but are drawn upward on the near approach of a steel hull.

The Germans are saying, of course, that the "Simon Bolivar" was sunk by a British mine; but only fools can believe that we should mine sea tracks marked out for our own as well as neutral ships.

Latest reports put the number of Czech students shot by the Gestapo at 120, and thousands of Czechs are said to have been transported to Germany. Martial law has been proclaimed in the Prague district.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

THE number of ships sunk by mines off the East Coast since Saturday morning is now increased to eight, five of them neutrals.

TWELFTH WEEK

Enemy aeroplanes were over the Thames estuary and parts of Essex and Kent this morning. Anti aircraft guns were in action, and the raiders were chased away by our patrols.

It is announced that since the war began 3 000 ships have been convoyed and only seven of them lost.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

THE Navy's main reply to Germany's atrocious mine laying campaign will be to sweep up the mines and to attack the submarines that lay them. But there is another, and it was announced in the House of Commons this afternoon by the Prime Minister.

As a reprisal for Germany's horrible breach of the Hague Convention, to which she herself was party, Britain will seize German exports on the high seas, up to now such exports carried by neutral vessels have not been interfered with. (The object of the exports, of course, is to obtain foreign exchange with which to finance purchases overseas.)

Up to this afternoon ten ships—six of them belonging to neutrals—have been sunk by enemy mines within three days. The latest victim is a big Japanese liner destroyed off the south east coast within sight of people ashore.

A German reconnaissance bomber was shot down over the Kent coast near Deal this afternoon.

TWELFTH WEEK

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

(Continued)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announces two new Government securities—a further issue of National Savings Certificates, and 3 per cent Defence Bonds. These Sir John Simon said are quite separate from the coming War Loan.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

AFTER saying that the British (Mr Churchill of course) were responsible for the sinking of the *Simon Bolivar* the German Press and radio now tell another tale and chortle over the success of German mine laying off our East Coast. Losses announced to-day include another Japanese ship and the British destroyer *Gipsy*—thus so close in that many of the survivors swam ashore. On the other side of the account is a German merchant ship destroyed by a British man-of-war near Iceland and two submarines sunk by a French destroyer.

Enemy aircraft were over the estuary of the Thames this morning and again this evening when one of them was shot down into the sea by anti aircraft fire. Shipping in the Shetland area was unsuccessfully attacked by six German machines which then swooped on a RAF seaplane lying at its moorings and set it on fire. Seven men on board all escaped.

TWELFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

THE superiority of the Allies in the air, of which there had already been much evidence, has never been so fully displayed as on the Western Front to-day when R.A.F. machines brought down seven enemy aircraft without losing any of their own machines.

Five were brought down by the French (who lost two machines) and two by the British (who suffered no loss).

It is now reported that German seaplanes have dropped mines by parachute off the south east English coast. The loss of five more vessels is reported, including one neutral (Greek). It is suggested that one aim of this unrestricted mine warfare is to frighten neutral Powers, especially Holland and Belgium, into opposing the British blockade of Germany.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

THE great scale on which the Germans have been laying mines off the East Coast is indicated by the fact that 200 which had broken loose have already been washed up on the Yorkshire coast. The sinking of two more ships—one British, one Dutch—is reported. Over twenty members of the Dutch crew are missing. The aggregate loss of life from this cause during the past week is considerable.

TWELFTH WEEK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

(Continued)

It is officially reported that the British cruiser "Belfast" has suffered injury from mine or torpedo in the Firth of Forth. She is already under repair.

Another U boat has been sunk by a French surveying vessel—the third within a day or two. And although there have been no large air engagements the Allied air forces have brought down nineteen enemy aeroplanes within forty eight hours.

It is now stated that Mr Best and Major Stevens who were kidnapped at Venlo, Holland, on November 9 and have been accused by the Germans of complicity in the Munich bomb explosion, were on a perfectly lawful and, indeed, laudable mission. Information had been received of possible peace terms suggested by Germans of standing, and the two British agents had gone from The Hague to the Dutch border to see what the "terms" were. There is still no sure knowledge of their fate.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

THE week ends badly for the Germans at sea. It is reported that the British and French navies, between them, have accounted for five enemy ships, including three freighters in South American waters.



THIRTEENTH WEEK



THIRTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

THE latest losses at sea include the armed merchantman "Rawalpindi" (formerly a P and O liner) with the loss of nearly all the officers and ship's company. The Polish liner 'Pilsudski,' which has been under charter to the British Navy since the outbreak of war, was torpedoed off the British coast this morning. Seven of the crew are unaccounted for and four are dead including the captain.

In an impressive world broadcast to-night, the Prime Minister denounced the enemy's barbarous practice of indiscriminate mine laying. "You need have no fear," he said, "that this attempt will succeed. Already we know the secrets of the magnetic mine, and we shall soon master it as we have mastered the U boat."

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

THE German pocket battleship 'Deutschland,' about which gossip ran riot at the week-end is grimly in the news to-day. It was her guns that sank the "Rawalpindi" off the coast of Iceland.

Whatever else may happen, the story will remain one of the epics of the war. The "Rawalpindi" was on contraband patrol duty when she sighted an enemy ship. Captain Kennedy recognised it as the "Deutschland." He knew, of course, that its armament was vastly superior—11 inch guns against his own 6 inch—but he refused to surrender and maintained the unequal fight till all his guns were out of action and the whole ship was ablaze except the fore-castle and the poop.

THIRTEENTH WEEK

A British cruiser then appeared and the enemy steamed away. About thirty survivors are believed to have been picked up by a German ship. Eleven others have been brought to a British port by the "Clitral".

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

THE new session of Parliament was opened by the King to-day, but without the splendour of pomp and ceremony that always marks the occasion when their Majesties go to the House of Lords in time of peace. The King's Speech was short, and dealt exclusively with the war as did the debates on the Address that began shortly after.

One of our long range fighter patrols, seeking mine-laying seaplanes sighted three at Borkum and attacked them with machine-gun fire. Though engaged by heavy anti aircraft fire all our machines have returned safely. The distance to Borkum and back is about 600 miles.

The reprisals on German sea borne exports announced last week, will come into force on Monday. On and after that date outward bound goods that are German property or of German origin will be liable to seizure and to be dealt with as the Prize Court directs.

Rationing of butter and bacon in this country—four ounces a head of each per week—will begin on January 8. Consumers are asked to ration sugar voluntarily—a pound for each person per week.

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THIRTEENTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

THE Russian Government has broken off diplomatic relations with Finland, and M Molotoff, the Soviet Prime Minister announces that the Red Army must be ready for any eventuality. In Washington Mr Cordell Hull has told the Press that the United States Government are ready to mediate between the two Powers.

In Holland which has suffered cruelly from Germany's indiscriminate mine-laying it is announced that 'the shipping of the Netherlands will carry on. At the same time neutral correspondents in Berlin are informed that broadcast mine laying' is to be extended.

Two attempts to cross British north-east coast defences were defeated this morning and, in single combat with a British machine, a German aeroplane was brought down five miles from the Northumberland shore.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

FOLLOWING closely on a conciliatory Note from the Finnish Government, Russia attacked Finland to-day by land sea, and air. Precisely what the invading army has done is not yet clear, but it is known that ports in the Gulf of Finland have been bombed from the sea and that Helsinki has several times been attacked from the air. In one raid on the capital this afternoon many civilians were

THIRTEENTH WEEK

killed and buildings set on fire. Late to-night it was announced that the Government had resigned.

The Soviet Government's aggression is denounced nearly everywhere and nowhere more than in the United States whose offer of mediation was curtly rejected by the Russian Government while Finland welcomed it. Only to Germany can Russia look for sympathy.

In the House of Commons the Prime Minister deplored this fresh attack on a small independent nation, said the Finnish attitude had been unprovocative from the beginning, and that the questions at issue did not justify war.

Two British aircraft have shot down a German Dornier seaplane—said to be one of the type which has been broadcasting mines off our east coast.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

A NEW Government has been formed at Helsinki and the Finns are bravely resisting the Russian invasion. It is officially stated to-night that they have taken 1200 prisoners. Other reports mention that many Russian tanks and aeroplanes have been destroyed. Nobody doubts the valour of the Finns and they have almost universal sympathy in their fight against the vastly more powerful foe. All towns in the danger zone are being evacuated.

THIRTEENTH WEEK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

(Continued)

Reports from Germany tell of growing disquiet there about the growth of Russian power in the Baltic. But it was of course, Hitler who started Stalin on the path of aggression

"It is tragic" President Roosevelt said to-day, 'to see the policy of force spreading and to realise that wanton disregard for the law is still on the march'

Notice is given by Royal Proclamation that men of the third age group in this country—those who are now over twenty and below twenty three—are liable to be called up for military service and must register next Saturday

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

THE Finns report local successes. Their terrain, with its vast stretches of forest lake and swamp, favours the land defence. What remains to be seen is whether, under the rain of bombs on the towns, from air and sea the Government will be able to stand firm long enough for the army to make full use of natural advantages

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FOURTEENTH WEEK  
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FOURTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

THE Royal Air Force to-day made the most successful raid in the war up to now. A strong formation of bombers attacked German warships near Heligoland, made direct hits with heavy bombs, shot down a Messerschmitt fighter—the only one they encountered—and all reached home again. This is a remarkable break in the previous record of bombers invariably getting the worst of engagements with fighters.

Enemy submarines are having a bad time. To-day one was sunk in the North Sea with a single bomb from a British Coastal Command aeroplane. Last night five officers and thirty-eight members of the crew of a U boat destroyed in recent naval operations were landed at a Scottish port.

How one German submarine was destroyed is vividly described in a report to-night. The crew of a fishing smack saw her stealing along the coast. They reported it to the nearest port with the result that when the U boat was near her objective she was destroyed without inflicting any damage on her unexpected assailants.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

LARGE parts of Finland are snowbound or rapidly becoming so, and the remarkable mobility of the Finnish ski battalions is for the time of great value to the defence. Where the enemy advance it is slowly, and they have not yet made effective contact with the fortified Mannerheim Line. The heavy fall of snow has made air operations impossible.

Evacuation has been on such a large scale that only about 50,000 people are left in

FOURTEENTH WEEK

Helsinki: The Government are still there and meet in a bomb-proof shelter

The "Doric Star" (Blue Star Line), on her way home from New Zealand and Australia, has been attacked by a German raider—believed to be the "pocket" battleship "Admiral Scheer"—and is presumed to have been sunk. The German radio says it was in the South Atlantic

The King landed in France to-day and will visit the zone occupied by British troops

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

LORD HALIFAX made an important speech in the House of Lords this afternoon on British war purposes. In the main they are (1) that people who have been deprived of their independence should recover their liberties, and (2) that Europe should be delivered from the fear of German aggression. He applied to the United Kingdom the statement made by M. Daladier a few days ago that, on those conditions, France would lay down her arms when she could treat with a Government whose signature could be trusted.

American sympathy with Finland was further shown to-day, when President Roosevelt said that if its Government makes the annual debt payment to the United States next week it will be paid into a suspense account, and that when Congress meets he will propose that not only this payment but those for the past four or five years shall be used for the benefit of the Finnish people.

It is announced that the production of munitions in this country has been doubled during the past six months and will be doubled again during the coming six months.

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FOURTEENTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

MR CHURCHILL gave to the House of Commons a heartening report on the war at sea. The destruction of U boats proceeds normally—from two to four a week, it is believed that the number last week was five.

A thousand of our merchant ships have already been armed for self-defence. One consequence is that the enemy submarines find it easier to attack neutral shipping than British and French vessels. While neutral losses have increased our losses have diminished. In November a quarter of a million tons of merchandise entered or cleared from British harbours for every thousand tons lost.

The magnetic mine was not a surprise indeed said Mr Churchill counter measures were far advanced before the first of them was laid in British waters.

The Finns have received aircraft from abroad including fifty machines from Italy. It is understood that some fighter aeroplanes have been secured from this country as well as other war material.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

THE best news of the week was given to the House of Commons by Mr Oliver Stanley when he said that the figures for November will probably show a rise of fifty per cent in the value of exports or a total about equal to that of last August. In the war of 1914-15 it was nearly two years before the pre-war level was regained.

FOURTEENTH WEEK

There was air fighting in the North Sea to-day. Ten enemy aircraft which approached the coast were driven off and some of them hit. Yesterday two enemy seaplanes (Dorniers) were engaged and damaged, one so severely that it was unlikely to get home.

Italy is reported to be concerned about suspected Russian designs against Rumania and the Balkans.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

THE destroyer "Jersey" was yesterday attacked by a submarine and damaged but was able to reach harbour. Two officers and eight ratings are missing and twelve ratings injured. Late to-night it is reported that the submarine has since been sunk. To-day two U-boats were bombed by coastal command aircraft and are believed to have been destroyed.

German reports again state that one of their reconnaissance machines has reached London. Like other similar statements by the enemy, this is false.

In the Finnish war, hard fighting is reported on the Karelian isthmus; the Finns have counter-attacked with vigour; and on other fronts Russians advance very slowly. Meantime, Sweden is violently assailed in a German semi-official Note.

The Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Bucharest has assured the Government there that Russia has no intention of threatening Rumania, or of occupying Bessarabia or the mouth of the Danube.

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FOURTEENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

BBRITISH warships on patrol near Iceland have captured a German steamer which was pretending to be Russian. This is the Navy's nineteenth prize, but, in addition, seventeen other enemy merchantmen have been accounted for, most of them being scuttled to avoid capture. On the other side of the account, it is reported that the British steamer "Brandon" has been torpedoed and sunk off the West Coast with the loss of nine lives.

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FIFTEENTH WEEK  
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FIFTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

THE King arrived in London from France after four days with the British and French armies there. Yesterday he was conducted over a sector of the Maginot Line by General Gamelin, and from a vantage point near the British advanced posts looked into enemy territory. Everywhere the King had an enthusiastic reception.

The British units who are in line with the French on the German frontier are based on field fortifications of the Maginot Line, but they do not garrison the underground works, which are manned by specially trained fortress troops. Our men have already been in contact with the enemy, but without casualties.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

THE Finnish delegate to the League of Nations put the case for his country before the Assembly at Geneva this afternoon. He was heard with full sympathy and, later in the day, a resolution was passed calling on Russia to cease hostilities and accept the mediation of the League. It was on the suggestion of the British delegate, Mr. R. A. Butler, that the Assembly decided to ask the Soviet Government to reply within twenty-four hours.

Last week's losses of British merchantmen totalled 33 518 tons, the highest total since the first two weeks of the war.

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FIFTEENTH WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

THE League's offer of mediation has been rejected by the Russian Government and the attack on Finland is being hard pressed. According to a Finnish official report, there is severe fighting along the whole line on the Karelian Isthmus.

Sir John Simon reported to the House of Commons a comprehensive agreement for financial co-operation by Britain and France. The rate of exchange between the pound and the franc is to remain unchanged during the war, neither Government will raise a foreign loan or credit except in agreement with the other, and the two countries are to share expenditure in giving assistance to other countries and maintaining the armed forces of their Polish ally.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

AFTER questions to-day the House held a secret sitting for the discussion of the organisation of supplies for the Forces.

There is a new development in the defence against the indiscriminate mine laying campaign. The Air Ministry announces that R A F security patrols (this term now appears for the first time) were continuously maintained over German mine laying aircraft bases in the Heligoland Bight last night. Our aircraft operated over the islands of Sylt, Borkum, and Norderney, and kept up their watch in spite of considerable anti aircraft fire.

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FIFTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

THERE was exciting news early this morning. The enemy "pocket" battleship "Admiral Graf Spee" was chased into Monte Video harbour at midnight by British warships which, in spite of inferior gun power, had inflicted great damage on her.

The 6-inch-gun cruiser "Ajax" made the first contact with the 11 inch gun enemy ship about six o'clock yesterday morning, and was soon joined by the cruisers "Exeter" (8-inch guns) and "Achilles" (6-inch guns). Though they were all within range of the enemy's fire before their own guns could be effective, they at once attacked. The "Exeter" received damage which so reduced her speed that she was forced to drop out of the fight, but the two others kept it up throughout the day, and at last the "Graf Spee"—the pride of the German navy—fled and took refuge in the inner harbour of the Uruguayan capital. Messages from there show that she has been badly battered. There are great gaping holes in her hull, and the control tower appears to have been put out of action. Thirty-four dead and sixty seriously wounded were taken ashore.

Six captains of British merchantmen, captured or sunk by "Graf Spee," and fifty-four other British prisoners, were on board and the Uruguay Government is liberating them.

A notable success is reported also from the North Sea. Yesterday a British submarine was mocked at in Germany for letting the "Bremen" pass her without attack, though the "sunk at sight" practice is alien to British

FIFTEENTH WEEK

tradition and policy Early this morning the Admiralty reported that the same submarine had sunk a U boat and torpedoed an enemy cruiser

During the hot fighting in the air over the Heligoland Bight last night four Messerschmitt fighters and three of ours were shot down

The British destroyer "Duchess" has been sunk in collision with another vessel of the Fleet, and it is feared that 120 lives have been lost

The Assembly of the League of Nations passed a resolution to-day expelling Russia from membership of the League In the House of Commons Mr Chamberlain said that before the question was raised at Geneva the British Government had decided to permit the immediate delivery to Finland of a number of fighter aircraft, and they will sanction the supply of other material of which Finland is in need

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

A MESSAGE to-night from Monte Video says the "Graf Spee" has been ordered to leave the port within seventy two hours The crew are reported to be patching up the damage as well as they can and fuel has been taken in from a German tanker

For the third night in succession security patrols have kept watch over the mine laying bases in the Heligoland Bight Enemy sea planes observed at moorings were bombed but no fighters went up to attack the British machines which all returned safely

FIFTEENTH WEEK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

(Continued)

The Finnish Foreign Minister has broadcast to the Russian Foreign Minister an offer to reopen negotiations. But he says that any design to annex Finland will be resisted to the last — the Finns will never submit to a foreign yoke.

The Prime Minister flew to France this morning and will spend a few days with the British Expeditionary Force.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

THE British cruisers which are waiting for the Graf Spee outside Uruguay-territorial waters have it is reported received reinforcements which include ships of much heavier gun power.


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# SIXTEENTH WEEK

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SIXTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

THE "Graf Spee" came to an inglorious end to night. Just before eight o'clock local time (say, 11 15 Greenwich), she left the harbour of Monte Video to which she fled three nights before and, five miles from the shore was ignominiously scuttled. Captain Langsdorff or Herr Hitler for him had had to decide between internment for the duration of the war or fighting again or suicide. One or the other decided to sink the pride of the German Navy.

Most of the crew were transferred to the German ship *Tacoma* before the "Graf Spee" moved towards open sea followed by a procession of her own launches. Hundreds of thousands of people watched from the shore, just outside territorial waters a British cruiser was waiting. The great ship was blown up and set on fire and what remains of it is sunk in the shallow water of the middle of the estuary. There is no sure information as to the fate of the captain.

The casualties on H.M.S. *Exeter* are officially announced five officers and fifty-six ratings killed three officers and twenty ratings wounded.

In a minor engagement on the Maginot Line there were the first casualties, but very few, among British troops.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

TWELVE hours after the sinking of the "Graf Spee" another resounding blow at the German Navy was announced this time by the submarine "Ursula".

Her exploit is one of the most remarkable in the annals of undersea warfare. She penetrated

SIXTEENTH WEEK

a highly fortified and thickly mined area at the mouth of the Elbe, passed six protecting destroyers and torpedoed and sank a cruiser of the Kola class. It is only a few days ago—last Thursday—that another British submarine (the one that let the "Bremen" go by) sank a U boat and as we were then told, torpedoed a cruiser in the North Sea.

In an impressive broadcast to-night, Mr Churchill added to our knowledge of these signal successes. "British submarines," he remarked "have had the best week I can remember in this or the last war." He named the one I have just mentioned—it was the "Salmon." Mr Churchill said she torpedoed two 6 000-ton cruisers which will be out of action 'for many a long month'.

Mr Churchill stole a march on the news papers with one other stirring announcement. The First Division of the Canadian Army has arrived in England and will have intensive training here before going to France.

There was a fierce air battle in the Heligoland Bight yesterday. R A F bombers seeking enemy warships were attacked by enemy aircraft and lost seven machines but they shot down twelve Messerschmitts—about half the fighters engaged.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

IT is now known that the Uruguay Government was not acting alone when it decided that the Graf Spee must leave Monte Video at the end of three days or be interned. Representatives of eleven American Governments—including the United States—had conferred and

SIXTEENTH WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

(Continued)

agreed on a united front. After hearing of this Herr Hitler—it is admitted in Germany that the decision was his—ordered that the ship should be scuttled.

The officers and crew of the Graf Spee numbering 1039 arrived at Buenos Aires yesterday, and are to be interned by the Argentine Government.

More scuttling! The 32 000 ton North German Lloyd liner Columbus, the third largest German ship, was self-destructed off the Virginia coast to-day to avoid capture.

The Russians are intensifying the pressure on Finland using larger forces including some of better quality than those hitherto encountered by the Finns.

Having completed his tour of the lines held by the French and British armies Mr Chamberlain went on to Paris where he attended a meeting of the Supreme War Council. Later in the day he returned to London by air.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

CAPTAIN LANGSDORFF was this morning found dead at Buenos Aires. He had shot himself. His friends say that he was stricken with grief for the sinking of the Graf Spee. He carried out the instructions of the Fuehrer, but when it was done he had no wish to live. Responsibility for his death lies at Hitler's door.

Since the loss of the Graf Spee the Germans have been attacking defenceless fishing craft in the North Sea. Already this week thirty five vessels have been attacked, only three of them naval units. In one case of which details have been published they not

SIXTEENTH WEEK

only machine-gunned a trawler's crew but attacked them again when they were getting away in a small boat, and yet again when another trawler was picking them up

German propaganda also is sinking to still lower depths of infamy. The official News Agency in Berlin yesterday printed an alleged cablegram from Monte Video which said that British sailors spat on the coffins of the dead seamen of the "Graf Spee," made cat-calls during the funeral, and threw a dead dog on the graves immediately after. These are lies, of course. The truth is that British seamen placed a wreath on the grave and paid manly tribute to the memory of brave foemen

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

THE Finns are fighting valorously and are skilfully led. In the north the Russian advance on Kemijarvi and the railway from Sweden has been repelled and the invaders driven back more than twenty miles. On the Karelian Isthmus persistent Russian attacks in strong force have been held. Air raids on Finnish towns have been resumed, Helsinki was bombed twice to-day.

Since the war began 870 000 tons of goods intended for Germany have been detained by the Allied Contraband Control. Germany's loss, however, is much greater than that figure indicates for the greater part of the imports she normally receives from overseas are not now shipped.

Rationing of coal, gas and electricity is suspended owing (the official statement says) to the substantial economy practised by the public.

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SIXTEENTH WEEK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

AFTER being hard pressed by the Russians on the Karelian Isthmus for more than a fortnight, the Finnish forces on the Mannerheim Line are strong enough to take the initiative and they counter attacked to-day with great effect. The Russians made many thrusts north of Lake Ladoga but all failed. In the north the frost and snow are too much for the Soviet forces who are retreating with all possible speed.

It looks as if the Finns have got a respite which may enable aid to reach them in time for effective use. M. Daladier said in the French Chamber to day. We have done our duty to Finland in no half hearted manner and we shall continue to do it.

Air activity is now continuous in the North Sea. British patrols are reported to have bombed German warships. Enemy attempts to penetrate British coastal defences have all failed.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

A REPORT via New York says the entire German fleet has left Hamburg that part of it headed for the Baltic and the other part for the North Sea.

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# SEVENTEENTH WEEK

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SEVENTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

THIS was the quietest Sunday for many weeks—no important war news from any quarter

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

MUCH the most interesting event to-day was the King's broadcast to the people of the Empire. It is our love of peace he said that has given them a unity unknown in any previous war. We feel in our hearts that we are fighting against wickedness and this conviction will give us strength from day to day to persevere until victory is assured. He spoke of the Navy — all the men of our Empire who go down to the sea in ships —and of the Royal Air Force which in co-operation with the Navy is our sure shield of defence. The King had greeting also for the British Expeditionary Force waiting now but when the moment comes for action they will prove themselves worthy of the highest traditions of the Service.

The Mother Country can never be sufficiently grateful for the offers of help from all parts of the Empire. Such unity in aim and in effort has never been seen in the world before. The cause for which they and our Allies are fighting is the cause of Christian civilisation.

The Royal message was heard well in all parts of the Empire and in many foreign lands

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SEVENTEENTH WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

UNDISMAYED by frequent air raids (even on Christmas Day), the Finns are defending their homeland with a courage and military skill that are admired everywhere except in Russia; for even the Germans, perhaps, are secretly rejoicing in the serious setbacks that the Soviet armies have suffered in the past few days.

Most important is the stubborn stand on the Karelian Isthmus where, during several weeks, the Russians have made strong attacks on the Mannerheim Line with uniform failure and heavy losses in men and material. North of Lake Ladoga the Finns have crossed the Russian frontier. On other fronts they have either advanced or are holding their own.

At a south coast port warm welcome was given to the first contingent of the Australian R A F. to reach this country. They are a fine lot of young men, already trained and eager for active service.

The report is issued to-day of a remarkable address by the Pope to the College of Cardinals on Christmas Eve. He denounced aggression, declared the right of small nations to independence, and spoke of reparation for injuries done in language that Mr Chamberlain or Lord Halifax might have used. In contempt for freedom and human life, the Pope said, there had been "acts which cry for the vengeance of God."

SEVENTEENTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

A REPORT from Moscow that 30 000 Russians have been killed in Finland is believed by observers with the Finnish army to be an under-statement. General December has also inflicted heavy punishment, for the Soviet forces are ill-equipped to endure the severe weather that has now set in. In the extreme north, snow has stopped Russian operations.

But attacks on the Mannerheim Line by large forces of infantry and tanks are still continued, and the fighting is fierce. Heavy reinforcements of artillery are reported to have been brought up by the Russians. The Finns' need for war material is urgent.

Wintry weather has not lessened the activities of British aircraft in the North Sea alike in defence of commerce and in attack on German aeroplanes and naval vessels wherever they are found. To-day three enemy bombers and a patrol ship were damaged.

A French official report mentions that one of their destroyers, "Sirocco," has accounted for three U boats in less than a month.

The most interesting announcement to night is of the landing of Indian Army units during the past few days at a French port. They will join the British Expeditionary Force.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

IT is announced by the Ministry of Food that sugar and meat are to be rationed—sugar as from Monday, January 8, the date on which the

SEVENTEENTH WEEK

rationing of butter and bacon and ham will begin. By then consumers are expected to register with the retailer they prefer for meat supplies. The date on which meat rationing will begin has not yet been fixed, it will not be before the end of January.

The sugar ration will be three-quarters of a pound a week for each person.

It is announced by the Admiralty that H M trawler "Loch Doon" is overdue and must be presumed lost. The crew numbered fourteen.

Snow is falling over the British zone on the Western Front.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

A BRITISH battleship was torpedoed yesterday afternoon (the Germans say off the west coast of Scotland) and suffered some damage though able to reach harbour under her own steam. Four men of the crew are missing presumably dead and one seriously injured.

From Helsinki comes the news that Finnish troops have cut the railway running between Leningrad and Murmansk which carries supplies to Russian forces in the far north of the war area. There are reports also of mutiny among Soviet troops in the Salla section of the Arctic front. Fierce fighting is mentioned between Russian infantry detachments. The censorship on foreign correspondents' messages has been reimposed by the Moscow Government.

SEVENTEENTH WEEK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

(Continued)

It is said that the cost of keeping German ships in foreign ports is, in the aggregate so large that they have been ordered home. A British cruiser is reported from Rio de Janeiro to have captured one of them the 8500-ton Bahia Blanca which had left with a full cargo.

Within the next day or two it is expected that a Royal Proclamation will be issued calling upon men of twenty three to register for military service. Not all of them of course will go into the Army, for the needs of industry must be met.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

A FRENCH warship has sunk a U boat off the coast of Spain. Our ally's Navy is giving a remarkably good account of itself.

In a New Year proclamation Herr Hitler says: Before us lies the hardest battle for the existence or non-existence of the German people.



EIGHTEENTH WEEK



EIGHTEENTH WEEK

morning and dropped two bombs; one of the enemy machines is believed to have been brought down. At the same time, some 130 miles off the east coast of Scotland, three British aircraft engaged two twin-engined Heinkel machines, shot one into the sea and damaged the other

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

THREE R A F. bombers flew over the North Sea to-day looking for enemy war-ships. Near the German coast twelve Messerschmitt long range fighters swooped down on them. Though so heavily outnumbered—and bombers are handicapped in combat with fighters—our aircraft gave battle, shot down one of the Messerschmitts and drove down two others, which, says the official report, "are likely to have been lost." One British machine was shot down and another is missing; the third returned home safely.

The German ship "Tacoma," which has been at Monte Video since the scuttling of the "Graf Spee," was yesterday given the option of going to sea or being interned. She refused to face the British cruisers lying outside territorial waters, and will be detained by the Uruguayan Government for the duration of the war.

Ice has made the Danube unnavigable, and it is expected to remain so for two months. A great part of Germany's imports from south-east Europe normally pass up this waterway, and there must be a big reduction in supplies for the rest of the winter. The position is made worse by the fact that German seaborne imports from Bulgaria, Rumania, and Jugoslavia are now stopped by the British and French blockade

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NINETEENTH WEEK  
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NINETEENTH WEEK

was done except a little by falling shrapnel. Enemy machines were over Kent towns and villages, the Thames estuary, and the Essex coast, and here also the defending guns were in action before the raiders were chased off.

British trade negotiations with neutral Governments make steady progress.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

SOME parts of London are said to have heard the anti aircraft guns to day, but no raider came within sight or hearing and reports from other parts of the east coast say that all attacks were beaten off.

The attacks on undefended merchant men with bombs and machine guns are continued with reckless disregard of the laws of sea war. Indeed the enemy glory in it. The Copenhagen "Politiken" quotes from yesterday's German newspapers a German airman's account of attacks on two trading ships. When a bomb struck one of them amidships he says, "we embraced each other trembling with joy." In another case the victims wirelessed for help but the Germans ignored the S O S and flew away. British warships and aircraft, of course, do not sink trading vessels unless they are able to provide for the safety of the crew.

Large Russian forces are fighting desperately near Salla in Finland's "wristline" to prevent encirclement by the Finns. They are said to have twenty divisions on this front. The strain on the Finns is in one respect, increasingly heavy, for their small numbers must be fighting all the time and they can have no hope of exhausting Russian manpower.

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NINETEENTH WEEK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 *

THE range of British reconnaissance flights over Germany is now greatly widened. Last night R.A.F. machines were over Austria and Bohemia as well as north-west Germany. At the same time, the security patrols keep up their nightly watch over the Heligoland Bight, where their presence is a check on the movement of mine-laying seaplanes.

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TWENTIETH WEEK  
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TWENTIETH WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

THE War Office announced shortly before midnight that leave from the British Expeditionary Force was temporarily suspended. This followed alarming reports from the Low Countries. In both Holland and Belgium all military leave was suspended and men on furlough recalled. In Belgium between 30 000 and 40 000 more men were called up and motor vehicles and cars requisitioned. The General Staff under the command of the King has taken over the direction of military measures. In Holland also the defences are being tightened and there was an emergency meeting of the Cabinet at The Hague in the morning.

The precautionary measures are attributed to movements of German troops near to the Dutch and Belgian frontiers. A sinister significance is attached to the complaint by the enemy High Command yesterday that a Dutch aeroplane had violated German territory.

Absolutely untrue replied the Dutch after official inquiry.

The record of the British bombers survey flight over Southern Germany on Friday night has made a great impression. They flew a thousand miles and every machine returned safely to headquarters in France. The Germans try to belittle the flight but Vienna and Prague where the R A F machines dropped leaflets cannot be deceived.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 15

FEELING in Belgium and Holland is a little easier to day though there is no weakening of precautionary measures. The two countries are in close association and it is believed that

TWENTIETH WEEK

there will be common action if either is attacked. Belgian defences are stronger and much better organised than in 1914.

"For the time being," leave from the British Air Forces in France has been cancelled.

Tired on land, the Russians are using hundreds of air bombers to raid Finnish towns. Incendiary bombs are being freely used, and there is much damage to property, though the loss of life from this cause is not large. The Finnish A.R.P. report that last week the Russians dropped more than 2,000 bombs on forty-two places outside the war zone.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

THE Admiralty reports the loss of three British submarines—"Seahorse," "Undine," and "Starfish." They went to the highly protected Heligoland Bight "on particularly hazardous service," and have not reported or returned to their bases. Up to this no British submarine had been lost by enemy action.

Reviewing the progress of the war when the House of Commons reassembled to-day, the Prime Minister mentioned the German practice of strewing mines on the high seas, careless of the consequences to innocent passengers and crews. "This is already coming under control," he said, "and we have every confidence in being able presently to defeat it."

Mr Chamberlain made an interesting reference to Palestine, "where, despite an intensive drive by the German Ministry of Propaganda, the situation is now calmer than it has been for some years."

TWENTIETH WEEK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

(Continued)

How British news is twisted in Germany was shown in a Munich broadcast. It falsely cited the SUNDAY TIMES as stating that all Czechs in Great Britain of military age are liable to conscription in the same way as British subjects. England said the announcer was forcing Europeans to be her military slaves. The truth is of course that the British Government makes no demand for military service on Czechs resident here. It is the Czech authorities who are calling them to arms against Germany.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

A VERY interesting report was given to the House of Commons to-day by Mr Ronald Cross the Minister of Economic Warfare. Thus is a new Department with a new technique and its operations up to now have been strikingly successful. Not only has our control of sea borne cargoes stopped the bulk of German exports but in countries not separated from Germany by sea we have been buying up vital goods to prevent them getting into the enemy's hands.

And while German exports have been largely stopped our own continue to expand. The total for December £40 169 000 was 7½ per cent more than in November.

The strength of Britain's financial position is shown in Sir John Simon's announcement in the House of Commons that the 4½ per cent Convertible Loan 1940-44 will be repaid on

TWENTIETH WEEK

July 1. Holders have the choice between taking cash or converting the existing stock into a short-term loan at 2 per cent. The saving on interest will be between £8,000,000 and £9,000,000.

Easing of the strain caused by the German menace to Belgium and Holland is shown by the fact that limited leave is restored in the British Expeditionary Force.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

FOR the second time, the Finns have defeated a powerful Russian attempt to cut the country's "waistline" by forcing their way across to the Gulf of Bothnia. The enemy is retreating, with the Finns in close pursuit.

There are reports that German troops are now in the southern part of Russian-occupied Poland; and one suggestion is that the Soviet Government will transfer to Germany the oil-bearing district south-east of Lwow and not far from the Rumanian frontier. The oil wells suffered much damage during the Polish retreat in September.

More neutral ships have been mined or torpedoed in the North Sea.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

GERMANY is suffering from the hold-up of transport due to the freezing of the great rivers. The Danube was closed to traffic weeks ago, and now it is reported that the Rhine is impassable for all except specially equipped vessels

TWENTIETH WEEK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

(Continued)

Meantime, there is news of a shortage of raw materials in Germany. Textiles and leather are specially mentioned. All stocks of leather are needed for the army, and substitutes are being used for civilians' footwear.

There also appears to be a scarcity of news, and the German News Agency drops to the level of reporting that the Admiralty has closed the port of Liverpool to all shipping! The story is, of course, entirely false.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

REUTER reports a thrilling air combat between a French fighter and a German machine which was first seen between Calais and the Belgian border. It was pursued across the Channel, engaged not far from the English coast, and so badly damaged that, after a desperate effort to get away, it crashed close to the French shore.



TWENTY-FIRST,
WEEK



TWENTY-FIRST WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

A BROAD as well as at home Lord Halifax's speech at Leeds yesterday and Mr Churchill's broadcast here have received great attention. Specially noted is the Foreign Secretary's memorable saying that he would a hundred times sooner be dead than live in a world under Nazi domination.

Mr Churchill spoke of the German menace to small neutral nations and said that the war would be shortened if they all did their duty under the Covenant and stood together with the British and French Empires against aggression and wrong. It is understood that Mr Churchill was speaking for himself and that his words must not be interpreted as a British Government "appeal" to neutrals.

H M destroyer "Grenville" has been sunk by mine or torpedo in the North Sea. Eight men are known to have been killed and seventy-three are missing, 118 officers and men have been landed.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 22

SOME trouble with neutrals is being caused by the interception of contraband by the Allies. The Japanese Government have presented a Note to our Ambassador in Tokyo protesting against the action of a British cruiser in removing twenty-one Germans from a Japanese liner and calling for 'full and valid explanation promptly'. The Tokyo case is based on the fact that the men were not in the active services of Germany, but the British claim the right to take Germans of military

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK

service age. The captain of the Japanese liner made no complaint, saying "the Germans were contraband."

Smaller neutral States dislike Mr. Churchill's Saturday broadcast with its hint that neutrals should help to shorten the war by making common cause with the Allies. The Amsterdam "Telegraf" tells him to address his "appeal" to the big neutrals.

A broadcast from the Vatican scathingly denounces German inhumanity in Poland—"one more grievous affront to the moral conscience of mankind."

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

ANOTHER British destroyer—H M S "Exmouth"—has been sunk by mine or torpedo, and it is feared, the Admiralty says, that there are no survivors. Her complement was 175. She is the fifth destroyer to be lost since the war began.

General Hertzog made an amazing speech in the South African Parliament to-day when he introduced a motion declaring that the war with Germany ought to be ended. He was strongly pro-German, and declared that the Allies' demand for the restoration of Poland was ridiculous. General Smuts replied with great force, and moved an amendment affirming that South Africa "cannot contract a separate peace without losing its honour and sacrificing its vital interests." The debate was adjourned.

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TWENTY-FIRST WEEK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

TERRIBLE reports are being received of the savagery of the Germans in the part of Poland they occupy. The Vatican wireless station gives shocking details of the shooting of many priests and of insults to nuns. From another quarter comes the report that after Polish criminals had killed two German non-commissioned officers large numbers of Poles were taken from their homes in the district and a hundred of them machine-gunned the next morning.

In Poland the Russians are less savage but any deficiency in brutality there is being more than balanced by the methods of terror pursued by the Red urmen in Finland. Many hospitals though plainly marked with the Red Cross have been bombed. Doctors and nurses were killed yesterday.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

THE Russians are making desperate efforts to wear down the Finns by sheer force of man power and armaments plus indiscriminate bombing from the air. In their attempt to turn the Mannerheim defences attacks have been made at many points and though they have all been repelled fighting still goes on violently. The main effort just now is to turn the Mannerheim defences by getting round Lake Ladoga on the north-east. It is noted that the Russian forces now engaged include units of better quality than those hitherto encountered.

In the House of Commons the Prime Minister was questioned about Lord Gort's statement

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK

that if Belgium is attacked the Franco-British guarantee will come into play "with lightning speed" Mr Chamberlain replied that the question of how guarantees to Belgium can be kept has received the full attention of the Government

It is officially announced that British subjects who have reached the age of twenty three and are not yet twenty four must register for military service on Saturday, February 17

Another very interesting announcement was made in the House of Commons to-day by Sir John Anderson After consultation with the French Government, it has been decided that summer time shall begin this year on Sunday morning February 25

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

AFTER a week of continual fighting the Russian attacks north-east of Lake Ladoga are weakening Their losses have been very heavy, and, though the Finns have again had much the best of it, the strain on their smaller man power and more slender equipment is very trying Volunteers from many lands have reached them in considerable numbers as well as aeroplanes and munitions but more help is sorely needed

The German Government's fear of facts is shown by the widening of the ban on foreign broadcasts Listening to them—it was announced to-night—may be punished with death or penal servitude Those who pick up and pass on R A F leaflets are also liable to be shot There is a large number of prosecutions

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

(Continued)

Specially welcome as showing that supplies are larger is the announcement that the bacon ration will, beginning on Monday, be increased from four ounces to eight ounces per person weekly.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

TO DAY'S news from Finland is that the Russian forces north of Lake Ladoga are in a dangerous position, with their supply lines at the mercy of Finnish gunfire

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TWENTY-SECOND  
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TWENTY-SECOND WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

IN Finland the Russian attacks north of Lake Ladoga were weaker and on the Salla front they are for the time kept within their defensive line. In both regions they must be reinforced before taking the offensive in dangerous strength again. That the reinforcements will be sent, nobody doubts. Swedish volunteers are giving the Finns timely aid ; but much more help is needed, munitions as well as men.

A report authorised by Cardinal Hlond, the Primate of Poland, and submitted to the Pope, describes horrible cruelties inflicted on the helpless Poles by their new German masters. In one archdeaconry, fifteen priests were shot or otherwise done to death ; the people are being deported in large numbers, and in conditions of shocking unhumanity ; and everywhere they are being robbed of their money and other possessions.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

GERMAN bombers to-day attacked shipping off the East Coast on the largest scale yet attempted. Their number is put at fifteen or twenty, and they are known to have attacked at least thirteen ships (including two light-ships) between the Shetlands and Kent. Ten bombs were dropped on a Latvian steamer on which seven men are believed to have been killed.

During the past few days five neutral ships have been sunk by German submarines without the slightest regard for the safety of the crews ; many lives were lost. Three of the ships were Norwegian, one Danish, and one Latvian.

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

A GAIN to-day, enemy bombers—said to number about twenty—attacked unarmed vessels along nearly the whole length of the East Coast of England and Scotland. One of the raiders was shot into the sea near the Northumberland shore; another is believed to have been destroyed when approaching the Firth of Forth. The others fled when British fighters appeared.

The only survivor of the crew of one of the lightships attacked yesterday tells a sad story to-day. One of nine bombs hit the vessel and her deck was sprayed with machine-gun fire. The seven members of the crew took to a small boat and when, after rowing for many hours, they were so near to the shore as to hear the breakers, the boat capsized and six of the seven were drowned.

The War Office issued to-night the first list of casualties in the British Expeditionary Force. It totals 758, of whom 719 died, twenty four were wounded, one was missing, and thirteen killed. The list covers the period from the outbreak of war till December 31. The death rate is only a little above that ruling before the war.

It is seven years to-day since Herr Hitler became German Chancellor. He usually celebrates the anniversary by a speech to a special session of the Reichstag but that was not held to-day, and nobody knew that he would speak at the Sports Palast this evening till late in the afternoon. Wider publicity, it is suggested might have endangered the Fuehrer's safety. The speech was one of his poorest.

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TWENTY SECOND WEEK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

THE PRIME MINISTER presented a cheering report of the progress of the war at a luncheon given in his honour by the National Defence Public Interest Committee to-day. He gave earliest news of the first enemy submarine attack for a long time on a British convoy—one ship was sunk but the U boat was destroyed by naval and air forces. Some German survivors were rescued by British warships.

Mr Chamberlain's review of the work of the Navy and Air Force and of the great growth of the Army—1250 000 men now under arms—was impressive. Preparations on the economic and industrial side were equally imposing.

There was a tactful reference to the dispute with Japan about the interception of Japanese ships. Of neutrals generally the Prime Minister said they must decide their course of action for themselves but he asked them to remember that though we may have caused them inconvenience or loss we had never sunk a neutral ship or willingly sacrificed a single neutral life.

Sir John Simon announced in the House of Commons that £1 000 000 a week is being provided by the Exchequer to check increase in the cost of living. This is in addition to the subsidies on wheat flour milk and meat.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

MR CHAMBERLAIN'S speech of yesterday has been well received in neutral countries which were restive last week about Mr Churchill's broadcast. Tokyo reports say ●

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK

that the Prime Minister's reference to Japan is helping to create the right atmosphere for consideration of the dispute with us about contraband

A Labour motion for the appointment of a Minister of War Economy with a seat in the War Cabinet was rejected in the House of Commons

The Prime Minister informed the House of the machinery set up for the supreme direction of the war. The Committee of Imperial Defence is merged in the War Cabinet organisation (that was done in the last war). There are now five main groups of committees dealing with military operations and policy, home policy, civil defence, economic policy and priority questions

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

THE Conference of the Balkan Entente representing Turkey, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Greece began its meetings in Belgrade to-day. It was agreed at once to continue the Entente for another period of seven years. Bulgaria is outside the organisation but she is on very good terms with Turkey and has given a promise not to attack any other Balkan Power which is attacked from elsewhere.

It is a cheering sign that supplies of bacon and ham have lately been reaching this country so freely that prices will be reduced on Monday by an average of 2d per lb. As the result of rationing the consumption of sugar for all purposes is now only three-quarters of the peace consumption.

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TWENTY-SECOND WEEK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

THERE was another German air attack on shipping off the East Coast this morning—and the raiders had the worst of it. One of them was shot down on the Yorkshire shore and crashed in a field ; another was brought down near an East Coast town ; and a third was very seriously damaged and may be unable to get home. At several points on the coast people watched fights in the air.

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TWENTY-THIRD  
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TWENTY-THIRD WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

THE RAF success against the German bombers off the East Coast yesterday was larger than reported. It is now believed that four enemy machines were shot down.

Palkan solidarity is believed to have been brought nearer by the Entente Conference which ended in Belgrade to-day. It is notable that last night the Yugoslav Foreign Minister M. Cincir Markovitch gave credit to Italy for her precious contribution to the maintenance of peace in south-east Europe.

A new Anglo-Turkish trade agreement was signed in London yesterday.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

THE Finns have achieved another notable success. A Russian division north-east of Lake Ladoga was isolated more than a week ago and its supplies cut off. It has now been defeated with heavy loss.

The finest War Council meeting I have ever attended, said M. Deladier after the fifth meeting of the Supreme War Council held in Paris to-day. Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Halifax, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Oliver Stanley, and Sir Kingsley Wood were the British Ministers present.

At a conference with the executive committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Mr. Ernest Brown outlined plans for a great increase of armaments production. The committee undertook to give the Government all possible assistance in securing the necessary expansion of labour power.

TWENTY THIRD WEEK

The French Minister of Marine M. Campinchi, said in Paris to-day that out of fifty five German submarines which put to sea at the beginning of the war, at least forty have been sunk

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

A SETTLEMENT of the dispute with Japan about the removal of twenty-one Germans from a Japanese ship by a British cruiser was announced by the Prime Minister to-day. Nine of the Germans who after inquiry are held to be relatively unsuitable for military service are to be returned to the Japanese. They on their part have instructed Japanese shipping companies to refuse passage to anyone who is or is suspected to be in the armed forces of a belligerent country.

The Canadian Pacific steamer Beaverburn was torpedoed and sunk off the south west coast of England yeste day. Of the crew of seventy seven it is reported that seventy six have been saved.

The Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons that the Government are considering the introduction of a Bill providing for the imposition of the death penalty in the most serious cases of leakage of information of possible use to the enemy.

Rationing of butchers' meat will begin on Monday March 11. The ration will be on a value basis—1s. 10d. a week for each person of over six years and half that amount for children under six. Small meat courses will be obtainable in restaurants without coupons. Sausages, meat pies and edible offal will be ration free.

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TWENTY-THIRD WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

IN spite of heavy losses, the Russians are continually bringing fresh forces to the attack on the Mannerheim Line. Assaults follow in such quick succession that the Finnish troops have little opportunity for rest, and their resources in man-power do not permit of frequent reliefs. They are fighting with a valour that the world will not forget.

The latest victim of German mines is the British and Irish Steam Packet Company's motor vessel "Munster," which has carried passengers between the two countries. It left Belfast shortly before midnight, and was sunk in the early hours of this morning. Passengers and crew numbered over 200 and all were rescued, but twenty-one of them were injured.

In the Union Parliament at Capetown, General Smuts said the Government would, if need arose, give assistance to British territories right up to the Equator.

Compulsory school attendance is again to be enforced in evacuation areas as soon as school accommodation is available for full or half-time tuition.

A White Paper issued to-night sets out the financial arrangement made between the Government and the railway companies for the period of official control.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

IN a report to the House of Commons on the progress of the war, Mr. Chamberlain paid special attention to Monday's meeting of the Supreme War Council. "The short and

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK

sufficient answer," he said, "to every endeavour of the enemy to sow dissension between us is the phrase which I have heard so often on the lips of my French colleagues—'Nous sommes d'accord.'"

The House liked the Prime Minister's plain language about German attacks on unarmed fishermen, merchant seamen, and even light-ships—"not war but murder." It only makes decent people more resolved to carry on the struggle "until civilisation is purged of such wickedness."

The third contingent of the Canadian Active Service Army arrived at a West Coast port to-day and at once went to its concentration area. The voyage across the Atlantic was entirely undisturbed by the enemy.

The Government plan to spend a million pounds a week in order to prevent any steep rise in prices was subjected to some criticism in the House of Commons this evening, but it appeared to be generally approved.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

THE Admiralty announces a brilliant exploit. When a convoy was attacked a few days ago one destroyer sank two U-boats. In the air also there was a notable success this morning: one enemy bomber shot down and two others badly damaged off the north-east coast.

Latest news from Finland disposes of a report two days ago that the Russians had "dented" the Mannerheim Line. The defences are deep and are being made deeper, and everywhere they are firmly held.

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

(Continued)

President Roosevelt is sending Mr. Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, on a European tour which will include France, Britain and Italy as well as Germany.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

THE French Chamber went into secret session yesterday and resumed debate to-day. An official report on yesterday's proceedings says there was "a unanimous sentiment of patriotic vigilance and French concord."

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TWENTY-FOURTH  
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TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

INTERSE cold is reported all over Europe. German waterways are unnavigable, and the railways, neglected during the past few years, are inadequate to distribute the food and coal for which all parts of the country are clamouring. The Kattegat is frozen, and people can walk from Denmark to Sweden. Stockholm reports fifty-eight degrees of frost, and in the Baltic island of Gotland sixty-eight degrees have been recorded.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

A MIGHTY armada arrived at Suez to-day—a fleet of transports and their naval escorts bringing the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and the Second Australian Imperial Force (the first being that which won great fame in the last war). A German broadcast had stated that one of the ships was sunk with all hands. This was a lie: the voyage of more than 10,000 miles was free from any untoward incident.

Both forces, an official announcement says, are "proceeding to their specified areas in the Middle East." They had an enthusiastic welcome at Suez. Mr. Eden, representing the King and Government and people of the home country, had flown from London and he delivered a message of greeting from his Majesty.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

THE Australian troops are already arriving in Palestine and taking possession of camps on ground familiar to the Anzacs of the last

TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK

war Jews and Arabs had co-operated in the preparation of the camp.

Mr Eden went from Suez to Cairo where many engagements awaited him, including an audience of King Farouk to-day and a visit to Indian troops in their camp to-morrow.

It is officially reported that last week the Germans sank six ships—three British and three neutral. Meantime, the efficiency of the convoy system is further established. Since the beginning of the war 8,284 ships have been escorted in British convoys. Of these eighteen (including two neutrals) have been sunk, or about one-fifth of one per cent. In other words the odds against the sinking of a ship in convoy are about 400 to 1.

This is the twelfth day of continuous Russian attacks on the Mannerheim Line. They claim the capture of 'thirty-two defensive fortifications,' and that the Finns lost some advance positions is suggested by the report of counter-attacks. The Soviet forces are supported by the greatest massing of artillery and tanks that the war in Finland has seen. Their losses have been very heavy.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

THE sinking of three British merchantmen was reported to-day—and late to night the Admiralty announced that the two U boats concerned had been destroyed. One of them survived its victim for only half an hour. Four U boats have been sunk in the past five days.

It is reported from Amsterdam that a Holland America Line steamer was torpedoed

TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

(Continued)

by a German submarine fifteen miles from Bishop Rock on Saturday evening on the pretext that she was bound for an English harbour. But it is declared that she was going direct to Holland with a cargo of grain for the Dutch Government. "Cynical and savage" is the Amsterdam "Telegraaf's" very proper description of this latest German atrocity.

Mr D N Pritt, a Labour member (he is a K C.) with well known Russian sympathies, asked the Government in the House of Commons to say that the enlistment of volunteers in this country for Finland was a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870. The Act, however, confers power to grant dispensations, and the House was informed by the Under Secretary to the Home Office that a general licence has been granted to British subjects to enlist in the Finnish forces. Some hundreds of men have already been enrolled by the recruiting organisation established in London. This organisation is recognised by our Government.

In Finland men of the 1897 class—that is men of forty three—have been given notice to report to the Colours by Tuesday next.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

THE cruiser 'Exeter' which won a place in history by its share in the victorious combat with the "Graf Spee," arrived at Plymouth early this morning and anchored about a mile from the Hoe. The news flew through the old city, and when later in the day,

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she steamed into harbour, the battle-scarred ship and her crew were hailed with joy unrestrained.

Sir John Simon and Mr. Churchill represented the Government and, with a party of senior naval officers, went aboard. There the First Lord delivered a heart-stirring speech that linked up the exploits of "Exeter" and her consorts with Plymouth's centuries old tradition of heroic service on all the seas.

The Rulers of the Federated Malay States are giving £1,000,000 to the British Government for the prosecution of the war

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

THE Swedish Government has refused the appeal of the Finns for military aid; nor will it permit foreign troops to cross Sweden. Swedes in large numbers are fighting with the Finns and foreign volunteers as well as munitions are allowed to pass through the country. But the Stockholm Government, resolved to maintain neutrality, will not go further.

The Finns are fighting desperately, but the vastly larger numbers of the Russians are pressing them hard, and they admit having given ground at three points on the Karelian Isthmus. The French General Clement Grandcourt is to be Commander in Chief of the Foreign Legion in Finland—excluding the Swedes, who are a separate unit.

It is revealed that the destroyer which sank two U boats on February 9 is H M S "Antelope"

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TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

EXCITING news to-day is of the interception by British destroyers of the German "prison" ship "Altmark" and of the rescue of between 300 and 400 British seamen who were being taken to Germany as prisoners. They were members of the crews of merchantmen sunk in the South Atlantic by the "Graf Spee" before Christmas.

Nothing was heard of the "Altmark" from that time until two days ago when she was moving down the Norwegian coast keeping close to shore. Yesterday afternoon she took refuge in a fiord. There in the darkness of night, she was followed by the destroyer "Cossack" which boarded the "Altmark" and after a short fight, rescued all the British prisoners. They were battened down below and were not discovered when Norwegian officials inspected the ship. They are reported to have been brutally treated. In these circumstances, the British violation of territorial waters need cause no qualms.

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TWENTY-FIFTH  
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

THE destroyer Cossack's rescue of 299 British seamen from the German ship 'Altmark' is the talk of the world to-day. The Norwegian Government has protested, the Germans are furious, but nearly everywhere else the British action is approved.

It is now generally recognised that at Bergen the captain of the 'Altmark' ought to have released his prisoners, that as he did not do it the Norwegian authorities should have done it for him and that the 'Altmark' moreover should have been interned. None of these things happened. The Norwegian officials who inspected the ship did not even discover the presence of the British prisoners and the 'Altmark' was allowed to continue her journey in the shelter of territorial waters. These facts are almost universally held to have justified the British intervention.

In accordance with arrangements made at the beginning of the war British holdings of sixty United States railway and industrial securities are being transferred to the Treasury and will be realised in orderly fashion at about the average volume of recent months.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

WE now have the case for Norway in the 'Altmark' affair. Professor Koht, the Foreign Minister, denied in the Storting to-night that the German ship called at Bergen. In effect his statement amounted to this: that the 'Altmark' must be considered a warship that she had a right to pass through territorial waters and that the Norwegians had no right

TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK

of search, except with consent. They did not know prisoners were aboard, but, if they had known, it would have made no difference; and, anyhow, it did not entitle British warships to enforce their will in territorial waters.

H.M. destroyer "Daring" has been torpedoed and sunk. One officer and four ratings have been picked up, but nine officers and 148 ratings are missing, and it is feared they have been lost.

The 18th Division of the Russian Army, which has been in a desperate position for several weeks north-east of Lake Ladoga, is now reported to have been completely destroyed with a loss of 18,000 men killed or captured.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

THE House of Commons was entirely satisfied with the reply which the Prime Minister made this afternoon to the Norwegian Foreign Minister's statement in the Storting yesterday. He reminded the House that the "Cossack" did not enter the fiord until after the Norwegian officer on the spot had refused a request for investigation. He rejected Professor Kohl's version of international law as to a belligerent's use of territorial waters, saying that it would create "a position which His Majesty's Government could in no circumstances accept."

The House cheered Mr. Chamberlain's caustic statement that he found it difficult to resist the conclusion that "the Norwegian authorities have displayed complete indifference as to the use which might be made of their territorial waters by the German fleet."

There is further evidence of the efficiency of the convoy system. Up to Wednesday of last week 8,969 ships had been convoyed and only

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

(Continued)

nineteen of them lost. Neutrals are increasingly using the British convoys. There were 160 last week, and all reached port without damage. It is the unprotected ships that suffer. In the seven days ended on Saturday fifteen neutral ships were sunk and five British.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

BBRITISH fishing trawlers in the North Sea are being armed, and yesterday and again to-day some of them were able by their fire, to repel attacks from the air.

In the Riksdag the Swedish Foreign Minister Hr Günther, announced that the question of joint measures to assert neutral rights on the high seas will be considered by the Scandinavian Foreign Ministers at Copenhagen on Saturday. Germany is trying by attacks on their shipping to force neutrals to abandon trade with the Allies. This said Hr Günther, would be fatal to Sweden. Of the thirty two ships which that country has lost by mine and torpedo up to February 14 only seven were bound for British ports.

Sweden suffered from another quarter this morning when Russian airmen bombed Pajala five miles on the Swedish side of the Tornea river which is the boundary with Finnish Lapland. Houses were set on fire and considerable damage done.

It is announced that Great Britain has sent 144 aeroplanes (120 of them fighters) to Finland as well as a large quantity of other military supplies. A British naval squadron is reported to be cruising north of Norway near Petsamo.

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TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

GERMAN air attacks on shipping off the north-east coast were quickly repelled this morning and two Heinkels were brought down, one off the Northumberland shore, the other near Berwick. Four airmen from the latter (which crashed on land) were captured. Seven trawlers which were attacked during the day turned guns on the raiders and drove them off.

Snowstorms which began in Finland yesterday are heavier to day and, if they continue, are likely to hold up the fighting but the Russians are still pressing their attacks in the Karelian Isthmus.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

LONDON made good use to day of its first opportunity of showing what it thinks of the Navy. Officers and men of the cruisers 'Exeter' and 'Ajax' are in town and were given a reception they will never forget. First, on the Horse Guards Parade they were inspected by the King who presented decorations in recognition of heroic deeds in the Battle of the Plate. Then they marched through the City to the Guildhall, where they were the guests at luncheon of the Lord Mayor and Corporation and heard Mr Churchill acclaim in glowing eloquence the historic victory over the 'Graf Spee'.

At the same time the officers and men of the Achilles—their consort in the Plate battle—were being given a tumultuous welcome at Auckland New Zealand.

The Supreme Defence Council of the Turkish Republic has declared a state of emergency throughout the country. What precisely is the

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

(Continued)

cause of this action is not clear, but there are reports that a Russian battalion crossed the Caucasus frontier into Turkey and refused to leave; that they were interned and a message sent to Soviet authorities to fetch their arms; that a Russian cavalry detachment then arrived and also declined to return! Whether they were deserters or meant mischief the reports do not make plain.

R.A.F. machines were over the Heligoland Bight on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and bombed German warships. One of our aircraft was attacked by three enemy fighters and, it is believed, forced one of them down. No casualty was suffered by our men in the fighting, but one machine failed to reach home owing to the very bad weather on the return flight.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

ROYAL AIR FORCE machines from French bases made a nine-hour reconnaissance in Germany on Thursday night, and flew as far as Vienna and Prague. Last night they were again over Prague—for the third time.

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TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

A SQUADRON of the Royal Canadian Air Force composed of trained units from Ottawa Toronto and Winnipeg landed at an English port this morning. This was the first squadron to leave Canada. The men looked very fit.

The Air Ministry gives a stirring story of a reconnaissance flight over the Heligoland Bight on Saturday. One of the R A F machines repulsed six separate attacks from five Messerschmitts and though hit six times got home safely with its crew uninjured.

The report that the Turkish Supreme Defence Council had declared a 'state of emergency' is officially contradicted.

Mr Sumner Welles American Under Secretary of State arrived in Rome to-day and with him was Mr Myron Taylor, President Roosevelt's personal representative to the Vatican. Mr Welles is beginning a tour of observation which will include visits to Berlin Paris and London. He will report direct to the President. There is no question of peace plans now.

All over the world people are comparing the Prime Minister's speech at Birmingham yesterday and Herr Hitler's a few hours later at Munich. Mr Chamberlain was calm resolute confident the Fuehrer was arrogant abusive and one thought more than a little rattled.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

THE Finns have abandoned the fortified island of *Koivisto* the heavy guns on which have inflicted great losses on the Russians from the beginning of the attack on the Mannerheim Line. Freed from this flank danger the

TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK

invaders have high hopes of speedily occupying what is left of Viipuri. If this city falls, the Finns must make a further retreat. They are on a shorter line now, have received reinforcements, and face the larger Russian forces with valour, unabated.

A British aeroplane had the hinge of one of its twin rudders shot away in action with a German Dornier near the coast of Norway. Night fell, there was a thunderstorm, and the radio operator could not communicate with its base. The position was desperate, but the pilot kept control, and was over the Irish Sea (having crossed Northern England) before he discovered his whereabouts. He was still able to fly to his station near the East Coast. The pilot who thus saved machine and crew recently won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

THE unity of the House of Commons in support of the war was strikingly manifest to-day, when, without a whisper of protest, the Navy Estimates were submitted by Mr. Churchill in token—that is without disclosure of the expenditure involved. "The enemy need not be told more than is good for him," remarked the First Lord.

In a brilliant review of the naval side of the war, Mr. Churchill had the House entirely with him in his confident account of the present position and outlook. The U-boat campaign is less dangerous; we are on the way to mastering the magnetic mine; the Navy will shortly be reinforced by five battleships of the King George V class; he would not be content

TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

(Continued)

unless the control of the seas was maintained up to the highest standard of the last war

Mr. Churchill told the House that the Scapa Flow base has not been used since the Royal Oak was sunk.

To-day's news supplements the First Lord's review—'an enemy submarine sunk by a French destroyer off Cape Finisterre, a collision between a Norwegian steamer and a U boat, the latter (says an Oslo message) being probably sunk

Two enemy aircraft were shot down by R.A.F. aeroplanes to-day, one off the mouth of the Firth of Forth the other off the coast of Northumberland. Last night and the night before there were successful reconnaissance flights in which our machines were over the Baltic and North German ports. Some of them flew over Berlin, dropped recognition flares and leaflets and descended to a few thousand feet above the Unter den Linden and the Wilhelmstrasse. They were not attacked. Machines over the Ruhr, Cologne, and Dusseldorf encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire, but all got home safely.

Ten thousand ships had been escorted in British convoys from the outbreak of war to February 21, and only twenty-one were lost by enemy action—one fifth of one per cent

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

FOURTEEN Russian divisions and massed artillery are being used against Vupuri. The Finns stand firm in their new positions, and, though far outnumbered and with much

TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK

inferior gun-power, still believe they can bring the Soviet forces to a halt.

Last night R.A.F. aircraft were over Kiel and Cuxhaven, and again went as far as Berlin. Two German aeroplanes have been shot down while on reconnaissance flights in France.

It is a striking fact that while British machines have frequently flown over nearly all parts of Germany, the enemy's aircraft have not been able to pass our coast defences.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

IN the Norwegian Storting the Foreign Minister stated to-day that all the Norwegian ships torpedoed and sunk are known to have been sunk by German submarines or bombers. He added that Norway will protest to the German Government and that "all the Northern Governments" will in this support each other.

There have been "more or less official German declarations" that sinkings could be avoided by stopping sailings to Britain. That would be unneutral, the Minister declared; moreover, it would be the sacrifice of vital Norwegian interests. "We cannot abandon our shipping, which is the principal trade of our country."

In a Paris broadcast, M. Paul Reynaud, Finance Minister, announced that food and petrol are to be rationed in France. A census will be taken as a necessary preliminary to the distribution of food cards.

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TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

FROM twelve o'clock to night shipments of German coal for Italy will be liable to stoppage by British control ships. Notice of the intention to do this was given to the Rome Government months ago but time was allowed for securing other supplies. Italy may get coal from this country and pay for it by importing her own produce.

Mr Sumner Welles had a long interview with Herr von Ribbentrop in Berlin this morning and he will see Herr Hitler to-morrow.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2

ON the political side of the war the chief news to-day is from Berlin and Rome. Mr Sumner Welles was with Herr Hitler for an hour and a half this morning. The Italian Government announces that it is protesting against British interception of German exports of coal to Italy.

The Russians report that they have occupied outskirts of Viipuri.

R A F machines were again over Germany last night and flew over Berlin for the fourth time this week.

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